Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Inter-Arab Affairs

ACC Citizens Gain Priority in Employment

JN1807185689 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 18 Jul 89

[Excerpt] It has been decided that citizens of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] countries, when moving between countries of the council, be given priority in terms of job opportunities and the resulting rights and commitments.

It was also decided that the governments of the ACC countries, in order to secure jobs for citizens of the council, should curb the recruitment of non-Arab labor as much as possible.

This decision was made on the occasion of the festivities marking the 21st anniversary of the glorious July revolution. [passage omitted]

Granted Visas, Residency Rights

JN2307175289 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Brother Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, president of the Republic, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, and secretary general of the General People's Congress, this morning presided over a plenary session of the Consultative Council, the General Committee, and the Council of Ministers. [passage omitted]

The session was briefed on the resolutions adopted by the Alexandria summit of the leaders of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member states. It charged the competent authorities with taking the necessary measures to ratify the agreements and implement the resolutions adopted by the summit.

The session also approved granting ACC citizens entry and exit visas at the air, land, and sea entry points and granting them the right to unlimited residence in the country. The session also charged the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor with taking the executive measures to implement the paragraph relating to granting ACC citizens preference in filling job opportunities available to non-Yemenis. [passage omitted]

Palestinian Affairs

'Arafat Reportedly Confirms Israeli-PLO Talks

JN2407054589 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0500 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Yasir 'Arafat has affirmed the existence of direct contacts between the Israeli Government and the PLO. In an interview to be published by IL MESSAGERO today, 'Arafat says that these contacts have taken place at Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's desire, and that the talks, which were held in the past few days, were held in Vienna and not in Paris, or any other place in France as was reported here and there.

'Arafat said that previous contacts were held between Yitzhaq Shamir and PLO representatives in the occupied territories. However, the top Palestinian official did not disclose the identity of the Israeli officials, or the Palestinian figures belonging to the PLO who had participated in the talks to which he refers in his interview with IL MESSAGERO.

PLO's Khalaf on Dialogue, Fatah Congress

JN2307153589 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 22 Jul 89 p 20

[Interview with Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf by Najib Furayji in Tunis; date not given]

[Text] [Furayji] Ari'el Sharon has issued direct threats to assassinate the PLO's central figures, including Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] and yourself. How does the PLO approach these threats, and are they being taken seriously?

[Khalaf] We must bear in mind that such threats are nothing new. We have access to information about a list of targets for assassination that has been in place since Fatah came into being and intiatiated the armed struggle. Those on the list are under threat from Sharon, who airs what is on the mind of the Israeli leadership. They have made good on many of their threats. They killed Abu Yusuf [Muhammad Yusuf al-Najjar], Kamal 'Adwan, Kamal Nasir, and martyr Abu-Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir]. Such plans certainly feature in the Zionist movement's plans.

They declare their antagonism to terror; the United States, which supports them, also professes antagonism to terror. If there is such a thing in this world as terrorism, it is what Sharon publicly espouses. Regrettably, however, we have been on a death list for the past 25 years. Sharon is giving expression to blind fanaticism. He does not conceal his feelings as others do. It was not only Sharon who decided to kill Abu Jihad; there are others doing the same thing. If there is an outcry against Sharon in Israel, it is because he has divulged a plan that was on the agenda of every Israeli Government since the inception of Fatah and the beginning of armed struggle. The amazing thing indeed has been the reaction of the U.S. Administration. To my mind, the American response has been silly and fatuous and is an apology for a reaction. The same goes for Europe, where there has not been any true reaction. Worse still is the lack of any response in the Arab world. Where do the leaders of the Arab world stand on all these open, direct threats? It seems that everyone has relaxed and taken a nap: It is no use beating a dead horse! As for Sharon, he is a fatuous man. I would like to say that had we feared Sharon or his threats, we would not have embarked on our struggle to

begin with. We believe that Sharon, rather than we, needs protection. Since we have right on our side and since he has robbed us of our rights and land, it is he who must fear for his safety.

[Furayji] What do you think is the political significance of these threats?

[Khalaf] They are more an expression of the true nature of the Israeli Government—both the right wing and left wing, or those who claim to be left wing, in this government. I see no significance in the threats other than that. This trend shows the thoughts of some Israeli leaders to be as far from peace as can be. All those who came to think that Israel is interested in peace and that it wants to lead a peaceful existence in the region have had their illusions shattered. The best testimony to that is that Sharon's statements have been well received by Israeli blocs that have, unfortunately, been reared on illusions, conceit, hate, and fascism. Sharon spoke for all these blocs in his statements.

[Furayji] The PLO has submitted to the Americans a protest note about the way they are handling the dialogue. What did the memorandum say, and how do you see the future of the dialogue?

[Khalaf] The memorandum was to protest the U.S. policies and, more particularly, John Kelly's statements before Congress, in that he is using the PLO as a stepping stone for electoral gains. As far as we are concerned, this is tantamount to telling us that they are fooling us as they engage us in a dialogue. In other words, they are exploiting us to serve a purpose. This is the ultimate in American impudence and the ultimate in political insolence. It is indeed distressing, regrettable, and painful to see the Americans act this way and that the United States is not any longer the United States of America but the United States of Israel. They have gone so far as to want to limit the dialogue, the progress of which we are not happy about anyway. They want to place conditions on which persons they will meet and how. It is indeed saddening as well as laughable that when Ambassador Pelletreau meets a Palestinian official over a cup of coffee, he or I, Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf], will have to be charged for it rather than the American budget. The Americans say not one cent or dollar ought to be expended on the dialogue sessions with the PLO. One would think they were paying us money. This only goes to show the disdain in which they hold the Arab world. I would say that, regardless of the reasons behind the postponement of King Fahd's visit to Washington, it is a wise decision. It just does not make sense for a major Arab figure to visit Washington under such circumstances, when the Americans say not one dollar must be expended on the dialogue.

[Furayji] What lessons have the PLO drawn from the American position, especially as you represented the Palestinian side in the last meeting with Pelletreau?

[Khalaf] I am more than happy and indeed more satisfied than I was before I met with Pelletreau: We have thus fathomed their intentions and learned the extent to which Zionism has penetrated Congress and the American Administration. If the United States will not foot the bill for a dinner Pelletreau and I had with an Arab ambassador, the question arises as to how it will shoulder the responsibility of recognizing Palestinian rights. If they have failed to take responsibility for Ambassador Pelletreau's meeting with a Palestinian official, how on earth will the Americans handle the reponsibility of making a decision on self-determination?

[Furayji] I put the question back to you.

[Khalaf] I would say the U.S. role has been exposed after the Palestinian initiative. I am not surprised by Israel's position; indeed, it is to be expected. What is surprising is that the Arabs have not grasped what the United States is about. If the United States fails to take responsibility for a meeting, how is it going to assume responsibility for a settlement whereby some Arab and Palestinian rights are recognized? This question must be put to each Arab. For us, I must say that we have been profoundly disappointed by the United States.

[Furayji] You are now using, as is President 'Arafat, strong language against the United States. Are we to take this as political maneuvering, or does it signal loss of hope in the Americans bringing any pressure to bear on Israel?

[Khalaf] What I am saying is that a profound disappointment is making us reconsider and reassess. The Fatah congress is coming up and it provides us with the opportunity to do some soul searching and make a fresh start on our approach to the United States and Israel as well as all regional developments.

[Furayji] What forms will the reassessment take, and where will you go from here?

[Khalaf] The upcoming Fatah congress should make that clear to you.

[Furayji] How would you characterize Israel's position in light of Shamir's elections restrictions?

[Khalaf] To my mind, the Likud Central Committee's decisions mirror the entire Israeli political spectrum. The Labor Party thinks only that the recent Likud restrictions betray the plan, which they would prefer a lid be kept on. The Labor alignment does not want the plan to be made public and would rather sell it to American public opinion as a fresh one. However, Shamir, combined with Sharon's folly and the Likud's fanaticism, placed the four braces, which feature, albeit not in writing, in the original Israeli Cabinet's plan anyway. On the question of the PLO and withdrawal, I see the Israelis thinking as one bloc. The crisis, in my opinion, was contrived. Now the crisis is at the U.S. end: The United States had wanted to send a high-powered delegation to

patch up Labor-Likud differences. However, the situation blew up even before the time scheduled for the delegation's departure. So, it is evident that the restrictions were in the plan from the beginning, but, true to their foolishness, the Likud divulged it. It emerged that all the Israelis support the restrictions. Not one Israeli subscribes to total withdrawal or to Jerusalem's becoming the capital of the state of Palestine. Neither of the two parties will accept dealing with the PLO. So, what is the disagreement about? Their differences are only tactical and only concern which of the two projects a more democratic image to the world.

[Furayji] How will the developing American and Israeli positions affect the proceedings of the upcoming Fatah congress?

[Khalaf] The Palestinian peace initiative is clear and has come up with a new thing. The response to our initiative has been this inept plan. The upshot is a well defined Palestinian position juxtaposed against the absence of any clear-cut or positive Israeli stand. Undoubtedly, there are conflicting political Israeli trends. And let us be objective and not lose sight of the true perspective of things. Only a very limited number of Israelis have been favorably impressed by the Palestinian peace initiative. Those in Israel who have the say-so are the extremists, who may be divided into two types: those who expressly and unashamedly speak their mind like Sharon, and those who talk diplomacy but are essentially no different from the former. Whatever influence the Palestinian peace offensive has had on the Israelis is very marginal indeed. By contrast, the Israeli hawkishness will affect the Fatah congress, such as to produce a reassessment and many things.

[Furayji] Does this mean that moderates will be underrepresented, given that nothing tangible has come about from the American position?

[Khalaf] So far as we are concerned, there are no moderates and extremists in Fatah. We represent a mainstream nationalist trend open to various schools. On the whole, we are thought not to have been in the wrong in our political approach. I, for one, believe that our current line has not succeeded—neither on the American nor on the Israeli level. On the European level, however, we have succeeded. The same may be said of world public opinion. The American position has laid bare the Arabs who had impressed on the Palestinians the need to accept UN Security Council Resolution 242 and recognize Israel, both of which we have done. The Arabs had also urged that we espouse a two-state solution, and this we did. And still the American position remains unchanged. Thus, our policies have laid bare the American position and dispelled the Arab arguments that the Palestinians had been making life difficult for them. Enough is enough now. What can the Arabs say about the PLO now? Can the Arab regimes now call us intransigent, after we have accepted everything and Israel rejected everything? Our line has thus exposed the American position and showed that our consent to Resolution 242 has not impressed the Americans. Moreover, the result has been a firming up of the position of our friends in the Soviet Union and Europe in relation to the Americans and the Israelis. So, we have no regrets over our approach. We are just sorry that some once thought that we wronged the Americans, and this has turned out not to have been the case.

[Furayji] There has been much talk about a young leadership that will emerge from the Fatah congress. Will this kind of leadership be chosen on diplomatic grounds dictated by the Palestinian diplomatic offensive, or will other factors come into play?

[Khalaf] The deciding factor will be the fact that there has been an expansion in the Fatah cadres. The last congress we had was in 1980. The cadres of the fourth congress had 12 years of experience behind them. They now have 22 years of experience, which entitles them to have more say. This is strictly an internal Fatah affair designed to rejuvenate the movement. New, younger elements will be added to the central committee—the highest body of the movement. They will assume responsibilities by virtue of a generation playing its deserved role. The same goes for the revolutionary council, to which new elements will be incorporated to give impetus to the movement and the revolution. New cadres will fill the gaps at all levels. That is the way it is with political parties and revolutionary movements—a change for the better. In short, the reasons behind calling this congress are purely internal.

[Furayji] What are the guidelines the congress is likely to adopt organizationally and politically?

[Khalaf] I will not anticipate the congress. The congress will be its own master, and it will be for it to chart policies in political, internal, and organizational terms. The preparatory committee has been at work for 4 years and has looked at all aspects. There will be a review of the preparatory committee decisions, which will be put to the congress either to adopt or amend.

[Furayji] Do you not think that the Israeli stubbornness and American hesitation will pave the way for the emergence of extremist trends at the Fatah congress? How will you encounter this?

[Khalaf] Why should we encounter this? On the contrary, we encourage the extremist trends to express their opinion. Their ideas might be better than ours. We presented a certain political line for peace, and it seems that this line has not achieved success on the American and Israeli levels. I support the emergence of such trends and such self-expression because we lost the argument with which we can convince them that we have accomplished something. They are entitled to express themselves and attack this line as they wish. Why does Israel have the right to have its own Sharon and we do not have the right to have our own Sharon, although the Israeli Sharon has no right to

claim? Why should the Palestinian Sharon not have a legal claim greater than that of the Israeli Sharon—the refugee whom I do not know whence he came? I support those who express their opinion frankly, because under this Israeli vanity and American silence we can only expect new trends that will say all that has thus far been done was wrong. I may defend all that happened and continue to do so out of my belief in it, but unconvinced skeptics are entitled to have their say.

[Furayji] What will be the role of the occupied territory Palestinians in this congress?

[Khalaf] Praised be God, this might be the first time they will be intensively represented through the deportees and released. They will have a large representation at the congress. Most of the deportees, who represent the freed ones, will come to the congress in large numbers, and the voice of the people in the territories will be heard. Not only the voice of the people in the territories will be heard, we listen to all—even those who come from Latin America, although I better understand those who come from the occupied territories, particularly as they carry new ideas and as most of them were leaders.

[Furayji] The PLO issued statements denying threats attributed to you banning contacts between occupied territory leaders and the Israelis. What is the idea behind this denial?

[Khalaf] There are two types of contacts. We oppose the contacts that the United States wants to turn into negotiations between the Palestinians and Israelis. Even people in the occupied territories oppose them. There is another type of contact, in the form of summons. We said that anyone summoned by Sharon, Peres, or Shamir may go and meet with them. However, for your information, everyone who meets with Shamir, Rabin, or others immediately writes to his leadership about the proceedings of the meeting. We will then be fully acquainted with what happened, and we have no reservation about their stand. Consequently, the leaflets distributed against some leaders in the territories were disseminated by Israeli intelligence. We have absolutely nothing to do with these leaflets. Even those on whom we put question marks and who met with the Israelis sent us reports on what transpired between them and the Israelis. There is wide unity in the territories; unity between the interior and exterior is the guarantee. Any adventurous trend will not succeed and will have a short life.

[Furayji] What are the prospects for the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue? Will contacts between you and Pelletreau continue in Tunis?

[Khalaf] Never has our policy been negative. It is true that we criticize, but we support dialogue and its continuation. However, if the Americans decide to curtail dialogue, we will accept that, because we have lived 25 years without holding dialogue with the United States and we are ready to live another 25 years without such dialogue. Dialogue or no dialogue with it is not a problem.

Khalaf Cited Further

JN2107134589 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1128 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Doha, 21 Jul (WAKH)—Fatah Central Committee Member Salah Khalaf, also known as Abu-Iyad, has asserted that the Fatah Movement's fifth congress will be convened this month. He explained that there are no circumstances that may call for postponing it and that the current political events have no influence on this.

In an interview with the Qatari newspaper AL-RAYAH published today, Salah Khalaf explained that the congress will discuss many issues on the political level, foremost of which will be approving the resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council during its recent session. The congress may adopt these resolutions or make certain reservations and set restrictions within the framework of formulating a political program and plans for future moves.

Khalaf added that on the organizational level, the congress may amend the Fatah Movement's bylaws in a manner that will allow broader participation in discussions and decisionmaking. He said that the congress may also set up a "general council" as a new leading institution that can meet under any circumstances and at any time when it is impossible to convene the movement's general congress. He noted that the congress does not necessarily have to elect new leaders.

Khalaf stressed that the Palestinian peace plan is the political fence that protects the intifadah [uprising] and develops it toward achieving the Palestinian goals. He said that the intifadah will not use arms out of considerations relating to its continuation and international reputation. He added that this does not mean that the PLO has abandoned armed struggle, and said: No one has the right to ask us to abandon it. The PLO has never been asked by any official U.S., European, or international side to do this.

Regarding the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue, Salah Khalaf stressed that this dialogue is meant to continue only through the the U.S. ambassador in Tunis, to be based on discussions on exchanged documents, and that its continuation be based on written issues without touching on what should be declared and on what should be as a true prelude to achieving peace.

On possible Egyptian mediation between the PLO and Israel, he pointed out that Israel rejects any dialogue with the PLO and that Egypt has announced the failure of its attempt with Israel. He affirmed that the objective of Shamir's plan to hold elections in the occupied Arab territories is to evade adopting a clear stand toward the Palestinian peace initiative and toward their being asked

by world, European, and U.S. public opinion to adopt a specific stand. He pointed out that the recent Likud resolutions expose the intentions of Shamir and the Israeli Government.

On the prospects of establishing a Palestinian state on Palestinian soil, Abu-Iyad said that this state is a plan that will inevitably be achieved, but not in the near future. He stressed that this necessitates further struggle and intense political efforts.

'Abd-Rabbuh on 'Arafat-Tarasov Tunis Meeting

JN2107173489 Kuwait KUNA in English 1630 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 21 (KUNA)—PLO's Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh has revealed in press statements here Friday [21 July] that the Soviet Union considers the U.S. ideas on Israeli proposals to hold elections in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as ambiguous.

"The U.S. ambiguity is meant to evade specifying the final objectives of elections, peace process, recognition of Palestinian people's right to self-determination and the full Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian land," 'Abd-Rabbuh quoted Soviet Assistant Foreign Minister Gennadiy Tarasov as saying.

'Abd-Rabbuh, who was present at a meeting in Tunis Thursday between PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat and Tarasov told AL-ANBA' [words indistinct] American meeting at experts level in Washington last June.

Tarasov stressed that elections should be linked to the issue of finding a lasting settlment to the Palestinian question.

Soviet Envoy Cited on PLO

LD2207192189 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1831 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Tunis, July 22 (KUNA)—A ranking Soviet official has refused the elections plan of Israeli Premier Yitzhaq Shamir, affirming that the PLO has to be involved in such initiative to be successful.

Gennadiy Tarasov, Soviet assistant foreign minister, described the so-called peace initiative by Shamir as a "Satanic trick."

Speaking to reporters in a pre-departure press conference, Tarasov emphasized his country's firm stance toward holding an international peace conference on the Middle East, with the PLO participating on an equal basis with the other parties concerned.

During his stay in the Tunisian capital, the Soviet senior official had conveyed a message to PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat from Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev. He also conferred with Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi and Tunisian Foreign Undersecretary for Maghreban Affairs Mohamed Amamou.

He said that his talk with Tunisian officials aimed at reviving peace efforts in the Middle East toward convening an international conference.

Tarasov affirmed that Moscow stands fully behind Arab efforts targeting a solution to the Lebanese issue and also hails resolutions of the Casablanca summit on the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Lebanese ordeal.

Faruq Qaddumi on U.S. Options, Fatah Congress

JN2207112689 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Doha, 22 Jul (WAKH)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, said that the PLO will not stop dialogue with the United States. He added that a relationship with the United States, even if not fruitful so far, is necessary and required.

In an interview with the Qatari newspaper, AL-RAYAH, published today, Qaddumi added that we must keep the door of this relationship open to show the world we are ready for continuous dialogue and that our hearts and minds are open to a peaceful solution bringing a just peace to the Middle East.

He explained that the United States faces one political option which is the Palestinian option. The historical perspective indicates that events are moving in the direction of the independent Palestinian state, a decrease in Israel's power, and the end of the dependency of European countries on Israel and serving its interests.

Qaddumi pointed out that 104 countries so far have recognized the declaration of the State of Palestine. Currently, contacts are being held to set the protocols of the state of Palestine's embassies all over the world. He added that this calls for establishing the PLO and its institutions on the foundations which will underpin the structure of the future Palestinian state.

The Palestinian official affirmed that the Likud bloc decisions which were added to Shamir's plan for holding elections in the occupied Arab territories indicate that Israel's impasse is caused by the popular intifadah [uprising] and the Palestinian peace initiative. These resolutions have put the U.S. Administration in an embarrassing position because of the expansionist Israeli policy.

He added that the Fatah general congress will be held at the appointed time and place. He expressed his belief that the congress will not take decisions which contradict the Palestinian intitiative approved by the Palestine National Council [PNC] in its last round because the PNC members constitute a large part of the Fatah Movement members.

PLO Central Committee member Salah Khalaf said last night that the Fatah congress will be held this month.

Official Cited on Jordan-PLO Ties, Funds

JN2407081189 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 Jul 89 pp 16, 15

[Interview with PLO Executive Committee member Brigadier General 'Abd-al-Razzaq al-Yahya by Fu'ad Abu-Hijlah in Amman; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Abu-Hijlah] What are the results of Jordan's decision to terminate legal and administrative relations with the West Bank?

[Al-Yahya] The decision of legal and administrative disengagement came at the right time. The decision was a constructive step in the right direction. It enabled the PLO to move politically with greater freedom. Jordanian-Palestinian relations are now at their best.

[Abu-Hijlah] Is it true that some Palestinians have transferred their money abroad as a result of the disengagement? What influence does that have on the Palestinians residing in Jordan?

[Al-Yahya] If the question refers to rumors that the PLO had withdrawn its funds from Jordanian banks, contributing to the decline of the Jordanian dinar, I say they are merely tendentious rumors to undermine Palestinian-Jordanian trust and to disrupt the atmosphere of brotherhood and understanding between the twin peoples. The PLO has no fixed funds at Jordanian banks. It has accounts to which funds are transferred on a monthly basis to cover salaries and administrative expenses of the forces and offices. Those rumors merely benefit the Israeli enemy.

I must assert the PLO's keen interest in supporting Jordan's stability, steadfastness, and development, because by that we support ourselves. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Hijlah] What are the objectives of Faruq Qaddumi's upcoming visit to Damascus? Will contacts be held there with the Palestinian factions based in Syria?

[Al-Yahya] I do not know whether the visit has been finally decided or not. But we in the PLO Executive Committee approved the visit a very long time ago. We are certainly interested in normal Palestinian-Syrian relations and in the removal of all obstacles and difficulties facing these relations. This is because continuing the misunderstanding has become pointless. Moreover, the continuation of the current state of affairs serves only the Israelis. It is high time now, after the Casablanca summit to proceed on the path of understanding. [passage omitted]

[Abu-Hijlah] Is it true that the PLO is richer than some Arab states?

[Al-Yahya] To say that the PLO is richer than some Arab states is a tendentious rumor aimed at disrupting financial support for the PLO and serves the hostile policy of drying up financial resources going into the Palestine National Fund. We in the PLO have managed the funds well, contrary to all rumors. This has helped us maintain a balanced subsistence. [passage omitted]

Abu-Sharif Delivers 'Arafat Message to Zayid

JN2007192589 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Brother Yasir 'Arafat, head of the state of Palestine, has sent a message to His Highness Shaykh Zayid Ibn-Sultan, president of the United Arab Emirates [UAE]. The message was delivered by Brother Bassam Abu-Sharif, Brother Yasir 'Arafat's special adviser, when he was received by the UAE president in London last night. Shaykh Zayid is currently paying a 4-day official visit to Britain. It has been reported that the message deals with the worsening situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, the Zionist occupation authorities' acts of violence against Palestinian citizens, and the European position on Middle East developments. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak on Israeli Initiative, Sharon's Remarks

NC2207123189 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1149 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 22 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak said today that if Israel were to reject the concept of the exchange of land for peace, the Israeli initiative would result in nothing.

Mubarak was speaking after his speech on the 37th anniversary of the July revolution, in reply to a journalist's question concerning a statement by King Husayn of Jordan to the effect that Israel's initiative will result in nothing so long as it refuses to exchange land for peace. President Mubarak said: The principle of the exchange of land for peace has been recognized by the Americans and is also contained in UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

Mubarak said that he concurs with King Husayn's view on that matter, adding that the issue would never be resolved if Israel were to insist on its position.

Answering a question on the important topics that he intends to put forward in Addis Ababa OAU meeting, the president said: I do not want to act hastily. There are many topics, but we have to be patient. There are many African issues which we should propagate on the international level.

In response to another question on Sharon's recent threats to assassinate Palestinian leaders, including Yasir 'Arafat, the president declared: Such statements must be disregarded [yajib an nuhmilaha]. It is strange that an official in the Israeli Government should make such statements about the execution of Palestinian leaders.

Voicing his astonishment, President Mubarak said: The Israeli Government has been asking the Palestinian officials to refrain from terrorist operations, and the PLO has responded with a renunciation of terrorism. How is it that an official in the Israeli Government is now issuing statements involving threats of terrorism [tahdidat irhabiyah]? Mubarak asked: Can this be considered civilized behavior in any democratic and civilized country? He added: It is truly sad.

Foreign Ministry 'Indignation' at Sharon Remarks

JN2107183689 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 19 Jul 89 p 1

[By 'Abd-al-Nabi 'Abd-al-Sattar]

[Text] The Foreign Ministry yesterday asked Muhammad Basyuni, Egyptian ambassador in Tel Aviv, to communicate to the Israeli Government Egypt's indignation at the statements Ar'iel Sharon, Israeli industry and trade minister, has made calling for the assassination of Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat, other PLO leaders, as well as the physical liquidation of the leaders of the popular intifadah [uprising] in the occupied territories.

The Foreign Ministry also instructed Egyptian Ambassador in Washington 'Abd-al-Ra'uf al-Ridi to urgently contact U.S. Administration officials on the current Israeli escalation of violence in the region and Israel's attempts to abort the current international efforts seeking to establish peace in the Middle East. AL-WAFD has learned that the Foreign Ministry is in the process of preparing a complete file on Egyptian-Israeli relations during the recent stage, as well as on the recurrent Israeli violations of the peace treaty between Cairo and Tel Aviv.

AL-WAFD has also learned that the United States recently asked the Egyptian and Israeli Governments to suspend their media campaigns and settle the differences between the leaders of the two countries to safeguard the future of Egyptian-Israeli relations.

AL-WAFD Reports on Mosad Network in Cairo

JN2407100889 Cairo AL-WAFD in Arabic 20 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Alexandria—The Alexandria security forces have uncovered an espionage network that is operating for the Mosad. The network comprises three foreign nationals, one of them a member of the diplomatic corps of one of the consulates. The network, whose members admitted that they were spying for Mosad, had been gathering information on Egyptian military activities in the western desert. Instructions were given to expel the diplomat and the other two were remanded in custody in preparation for bringing them to trial.

Mubarak Reportedly Refuses Meeting With Shamir

NC2107200589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] An authoritative source in Israel has emphasized that Egyptian President Husni Mubarak has rejected an Israeli request to convene a summit with Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir. According to the source, President Mubarak told the Israeli interior minister that he will not meet with Shamir unless Egypt is assured that such a meeting will contribute to the advancement of the Middle East peace negotiations.

Mubarak Leaves for Addis Ababa Summit 23 Jul

NC2307080289 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0749 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Excerpt] Cairo, 23 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Addis Ababa this morning to attend the meetings of the 25th OAU summit, which will open tomorrow, Monday. [passage omitted]

Columnist Views Sharon's Assassination Threat

JN2107205989 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 19 Jul 89 p 12

["Keyhole" column by Kamil Zuhayri]

[Text] 'Arafat is unarguably the most moderate and most popular Palestinian leader. He played a big role in getting the PLO to recognize UN Resolution 242 as well as other UN resolutions. He also had the PLO renounce terrorism. His moderate policies addressed the world, Europe, and the United States, and even Israel itself.

Israeli Minister Sharon, however, seems not happy with 'Arafat's moderation: He hates 'Arafat along with all of the PLO leaders and all the Palestinians. Sharon declared yesterday that there is only one solution to the intifadah [uprising] and that is the physical elimination of 'Arafat and the other PLO figures.

Sharon's statement was carried by the news agencies, radio stations, and newspapers. The statement betrays matchless insolence. The point, however, is not so much the insolence as what underlies it. For the past few days, I have made the Likud Central Committee conference in Tel Aviv the discussion point of my column. The meetings attached four restrictions to Shamir's modest elections plan in the occupied territory. I have said that the plan is stillborn and that it was buried at the Likud conference. The conference stipulated that the intifadah be crushed before the elections are conducted, that there be no cessation of settlement building in the occupied land, that Palestinians of East Jerusalem be excluded from the polls, and that the establishment of a Palestinian state be declared out of the question. The four restrictions boil down to torpedoing the limited and modest initiative.

I have also said that even more serious and ugly than the Likud decisions was the ascendancy of the star of Sharon. Even though Yitzhaq Shamir himself belongs to the hardcore extremists' camp in Israel, Sharon joined forces with two other ministers—Levi and Moda'i—and the three put Shamir in a corner threatening to resign and dismantle the party. Shamir accommodated the three extremists, or the "gang of three," as they are called by Israeli newspapers. And so Shamir's stillborn initiative was buried.

Sharon then addressed himself to the fanatic settlers to urge further repression, terror, and violence against the intifadah.

He bragged that during the 1970 war of attrition, he managed to put down an uprising in Gaza. A majority of moderate Western media write about the hysteria Israel is experiencing at present. They also note the rising star of Sharon and right-wing Israeli terror gangs. Sharon's career is stained with blood. He began by perpetrating massacres against Arab villages while he was still a battalion commander. He also committed massacres while holding the rank of major general. When he became agriculture minister, he ordered Arab land confiscated and sanctioned the building of settlements. When he took the defense portfolio, he set up what he called "the Civil Administration" and "Village Leagues" and meant them to become substitutes for the PLO. He was the mastermind of the Lebanon war and the massacres of al-Rashidiyah, 'Ayn al-Hilwah, and Sabra and Shatila. The American TIME magazine held him responsible for the Lebanon massacres. And he was the man responsible for the 1973 war Deversoir breach. Sharon was also responsible for the 1967 Sinai massacres and the Qatanah massacres of 1953. He will not even stop short of slaughtering women, as he did during the Qalqilyah operations of 1953.

We have learned from the 1967 war to watch out for figures that previously distinguished themselves. Dayan's appointment as defense minister days before the 1967 war broke out was significant. Likewise, I noted in this very column the 1982 appointment of Rafa'il Eytan as chief of staff.

The signification of such appointments comes home later. And Sharon's statements are not without significance. More important is the return of Sharon and company. So much for the bland American statements about Sharon's utterances and Shamir's intiative. The United States has, however, made strident statements about terror and terrorists.

Paper on U.S. Senate Position on PLO Dialogue

NC2107223489 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2105 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Cairo, 21 Jul (MENA)—AL-AHRAM newspaper praises the position of the U.S. Senate, which passed a resolution Wednesday to continue the dialogue between the United States and PLO representatives. The paper calls for the enhancement, development, and raising the level of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue so that they can remain firm through difficulties.

AL-AHRAM says in its Saturday issue that this position by the U.S. Senate follows efforts of U.S. President George Bush and his Secretary of State James Baker in the face of strong Zionist forces which are trying to monopolize activity in the United States and to make the U.S. public believe that the PLO is a terrorist group with which there must be no dialogue.

The paper affirms that the termination or restriction of the U.S.-Palestinian dialogue will constitute a retreat and a step backward, and this will harm the peace process and will pratically end the U.S. role in working for a peaceful settlement of the Middle East problem.

Editorial on U.S. Attempt 'To End' Dialogue

JN2207182489 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 21 Jul 89 p 6

[Editorial: "Spoilers of Peace Efforts"]

[Text] Those Americans—whether congressmen under the sway of Jewish and Zionist vested interests or Bush administration officials—who try to end the U.S.-PLO dialogue or promote Israel's opposition to the establishment of a Palestinian state in the occupied land are wrong if they think for one moment that they thus further the cause of peace in the Middle East, where quiet and stability must prevail if huge American interests in the region are to be maintained and advanced. Such a posture only shows the lengths to which some Americans would go to flatter an aggressive country that maintains the occupation of a territory by force of arms and seeks to subjugate a people whose size is at least equal to the Israelis. Those Americans must reflect whether it will be possible for peace and tranquillity to return to the region, where a large number of Palestinians are living without a homeland and bereft of hope of leading free lives just as any other nation in the world.

The Palestinian people have raised the banner of struggle to regain their legitimate rights, topped by their right to an independent state after the occupation troops withdraw. Such a demand now commands the support of the entire international community, as evidenced by the tenor of the pertinent debates at the UN General Assembly and Security Council, as well as statements made by various West and East European officials. Even American officials themselves have recently had to come out publicly against certain aspects of Israel's conduct. However, the Americans have stopped short of taking positive action to confirm the seriousness of their approach to the establishment of peace in the Middle East and resort to prevarication every time the international community presses for convening the interntional conference.

They are in the wrong who think or imagine that Middle East peace is possible in the absence of justice and respect for peoples' rights and the principles of international legitimacy. And the days will prove them wrong.

Mauritania

Curfew 'Completely Lifted' in Nouakchott

AB2307073889 Nouakchott Domestic Service in French 0730 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] The Ministry of Interior and Posts and Telecommunications hereby announces that as from yesterday, 22 July 1989, the curfew previously in force in Nouakchott from 0000 to 0600 is completely lifted.

Sudan

Egyptian President Arrives in Khartoum 23 Jul

NC2307094889 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0935 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 23 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Khartoum at 0915 Sudan time today. He is en route to Addis Ababa to attend the 25th OAU summit, which begins there tomorrow, Monday.

President Mubarak was received at the airport by Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council. President Mubarak was accorded an official reception upon his arrival in Khartoum. [passage omitted]

While at the airport, Mubarak responded to journalists' questions on integration and the brotherhood charter. He said that neither objective has been achieved. He added that Egypt was ready to work hard for those goals, but the previous regime did nothing to further the cause.

Mubarak mentioned that once in a speech before the Sudanese central committee [as received] he said that if the fruits of industrial and agricultural integration between the two countries did not materialize in a palpable manner, the public would lose faith in those endeavors.

As for the brotherhood charter, it was just a myth, President Mubarak stated. He said that the charter was just a joint statement issued in Khartoum. You were mentioning brotherhood and committee meetings and we had no knowledge of any such thing, Mubarak said, adding: The truth, as I told you before in Cairo, is that there is no such thing as the brotherhood charter. I do not want, though, to criticize anyone or malign the regime of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. Mubarak added that the brotherhood committees were only heard of in Sudan.

President Mubarak said that joint projects will be established between the two countries, for the benefit of both, not just one, of them.

Holds Talks With Al-Bashir

EA2307153089 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] [No dateline as received] Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak arrived in Khartoum today at 0930 on his way to Addis Ababa, to participate in the 25th African summit. He was received at the airport by Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC]; members of the RCC; ministers; and the Egyptian ambassador in Khartoum. After the reception ceremonies, the two presidents went to the guest palace, where closed talks between the two presidents began.

Al-Bashir Comments on Talks

NC2307150589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1314 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jul (MENA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation, has stated that there must be cooperation in all spheres between Egypt and Sudan. This came in response to a reporter's question about what agreement was reached on agricultural cooperation between the two countries following a private meeting between Al-Bashir and President Husni Mubarak at the guest palace in Khartoum. Lt Gen al-Bashir said that priority will be given to projects to ensure adequate food supplies. He added that Sudan needs Egyptian expertise and capabilities, adding: We have some resources available. Al-Bashir added: "This is an issue which we discussed during our talks and we will achieve good results that will satisfy all domestic and foreign parties."

Asked to comment on Egypt's 23 July revolution, Lt Gen al-Bashir said that it was a pioneer revolution for all modern revolutions. He noted that it awakened the Arab world and the Arab people to their rights and to the concerns of the Arab world and urged them to seek Arab unity. He added that before the July revolution the Arab world was divided into statelets. After the July revolution, the Arab world recognized the importance of the Arab nation.

In conclusion, Lt Gen al-Bashir congratulated the Egyptian people in particular and the Arab people in general on the occasion of the 23 July revolution.

Mubarak on Relations

NC2307152589 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1349 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jul (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak has affirmed that relations between Egypt and Sudan cannot be ruptured by any one Egyptian or Sudanese person.

This came in a statement which President Mubarak made to reporters following a private meeting with Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] for National Salvation, at the guest palace in Khartoum. The talks lasted for 1 and ½ hours.

On his impressions of his first visit to Sudan, President Husni Mubarak said: Sudanese affairs concern us just as they concern other Arab countries. He noted that the first place visited by Lt Gen al-Bashir after the revolution was Egypt and announced: "What link Sudan and Egypt is a bond that is not new. It has existed for a long time. Here in Sudan they call it an eternal relationship."

President Mubarak added: What makes me happy is Lt Gen 'Umar al-Bashir's intention to establish excellent relations with all his neighbors. We appreciate President [title as received] 'Umar al-Bashir's concern for democracy in Sudan and for holding free elections.

President Mubarak noted Lt Gen al-Bashir's response to a reporter's question in which he said that Sudan loves liberty and democracy.

President Mubarak said that Lt Gen al-Bashir explained in his response that Sudan will elect representatives in a free election and commented that this is something useful. President Mubarak added: We appreciate this attitude of Lt Gen al-Bashir because currently he is carrying out necessary reforms. Later, things will develop according to the objectives he has set forth according to their importance and priority until he reaches the stage of democracy.

His excellency the president added: We hail Sudan's love for liberty and free expression. The Sudanese people are all politicians by nature.

Responding to a question on the Sudanese people's looking to Egypt to contact Colonel John Garang to resolve the problem of the south, President Husni Mubarak said: "We do not have a decisive influence on contacting Col Garang, but we are trying to help our brothers in the south resolve the problem of the south." President Mubarak added: "We are trying to contact Garang's group as this is our duty because Sudan's affairs concern us and we do not hesitate to embark on any mediation or action in support of Sudan so that it may achieve national and territorial unity. This is something that concerns us without our having to interfere in Sudan's internal affairs."

To a question on the extent of cooperation that can be attained between the two peoples during the current phase, President Mubarak said: "Cooperation between Sudan and Egypt did not begin today but has continuously existed for a long time. The two states will cooperate as much as possible in all fields."

Answering a question on the African economic crisis, particularly the debt issue and the role Egypt will play in this regard during the OAU summit, President Husni Mubarak said that the economic crisis is the Third World's biggest problem. He stated that as long as there is a difficult economic problem this will mean that the living and social conditions of Third World nations continue to be very hard.

His excellency said that it is natural that the leaders of the African Continent should focus on seeking a solution to the economic crisis and discuss a method of repaying their debt in a manner that does not overburden their nations, particularly in the current circumstances in

which the prices of the products of the countries of the North are rising. At the same time, the prices of raw materials exported by the countries of the South, are falling, he said.

President Mubarak said that he believes that Africa's debt amounts to $230 billion and remarked that Africa has to confront this and we are confident of its ability to do it. His excellency said: "We are not refusing to pay the debt. What we are saying is that very poor countries which have numerous debts to repay must be helped by rich countries which must deal with them in a special way. We must look for an easy and dignified way in which medium-income countries can repay their debts without being overburdened. Such a method of repayment would take into account the living standard of these nations. All rulers, governments, and states must take into consideration the circumstances of the citizens of these countries."

Leaders Leave for Addis Ababa

NC2307120989 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1102 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jul (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak and Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolution Command Council [RCC], left Khartoum this afternoon for Addis Ababa, the Ethiopian capital, to attend the meetings of the OAU summit.

President Mubarak arrived in Khartoum this morning en route to Addis Ababa. He was met at the airport by Lt Gen al-Bashir, members of the RCC, and Sudanese ministers.

Mubarak and al-Bashir held a closed session of talks at the guest house in Khartoum, within the framework of consultations between the two countries.

Former Numayri Officials Released From Custody

NC2307154789 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1417 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jul (MENA)—The Sudanese Revolution Command Council for National Salvation has decided to release from custody Khalid Hasan 'Abbas, Abu-al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim, Zayn al-'Abidin Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd-al-Qadir, and Ma'mun 'Awad Abu-Zayd.

The released individuals were prominent political figures in former Sudanese President Ja'far Numayri's administration. They had been arrested under Former Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi.

Further on Release

EA2307163989 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1030 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Khartoum, 23 Jul (SUNA)—The following were released the day before yeterday [21 July]: Khalid Hasan 'Abbas [minister of transport and communications until 9 April 1985]; Abu-al-Qasim Muhammad Ibrahim [Sudan Socialist Union secretary for Khartoum until 9 April]; Al-'Abidin Muhammad Ahmad 'Abd-al-Qadir [deputy secretary of the preparatory central committee of the Sudan Socialist Union until 9 April]; and Ma'mun 'Awad Abu-Zayd [Sudan Socialist Union assistant secretary general for ideology and propaganda until 9 April], who had been tried and sentenced to life imprisonment [on 11 December] during the former era for plotting the May 1979 [as received] coup.

This was reported today by AL-QUWWAT AL-MUSALLAHAH which noted that Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, had recently said that the revolution intended to release officers sentenced for planning the May 1969 move if there was no charge against them other than planning that movement.

Al-Bashir Meets With Numayri Regime Minister

EA2307161389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 0430 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council for National Salvation, met yesterday in his office at the General Command with Mr Abel Alier [minister of construction and public works until 9 April 85], member of the International Court of Justice in the Hague, and a visiting lecturer at Oxford University, who congratulated the leader of the revolution on the success of the Salvation Revolution.

During the meeting, Mr Alier expressed his [words indistinct] views on the future of the national problems, especially the problem of the south, and the issues affecting neighbors.

Lt Gen 'Umar thanked Mr Alier for his patriotism and said: All patriotic opinions would be appreciated by the national salvation revolution.

Al-Bashir Chairs Second Council Meeting

EA2107203089 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, the chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] and prime minister, today chaired the council's second meeting at its secretariat.

Ustadh 'Ali Shummu, the culture and information minister and official spokesman of the Council of Ministers, stated after the meeting that the participants had been briefed by the leader of the national salvation revolution on the results of his visit to the area, during which he met President Husni Mubarak before the latter's departure to Paris to meet the presidents of the nations in the conference of the great industrial states. The minister said in this respect that President Husni Mubarak had explained to the presidents of those states the real situation in Sudan and the principles and aims of the salvation revolution in light of his meeting with its leader.

The minister noted that participants in the Council of Ministers' meeting had heard the security report tabled by Brigadier Ibrahim Nayil Edam, the security adviser, who stated that the security situation in the south was stable, and that calm had prevailed during the past 2 weeks.

The participants also discussed the report presented by Mr Faruq al-Bushrah, the minister of commerce, cooperation and supply, on the supply situation affecting consumer goods. The council decided to form a committee comprising the minister of industry and commerce and the city commissioner to review the prices of locally produced commodities with a view toward making logical recommendations in this respect. He went on to say: In view of the influx of migrants and the unsatisfactory state of the channels of distribution, the council has decided to suspend the handing over of sugar quotas for the southern regions to the Kosti area, and to hand them over instead to the governors of southern regions at their postings until deliveries can be made through the sugar corporation.

The meeting also heard a report from 'Abd-al-Mun'im, the minister of energy, on the situation affecting the petroleum products. He gave assurances that the information in the report was correct. The council decided that priority should be given to the agricultural sector.

As regards the ministerial structure in the state, the minister declared that the Council of Ministers had made great progress in studying the proposals made by the five-man committee chaired by Staff Brigadier Faysal Abu-Salih, the interior minister.

The meeting also decided that the National Council for Higher Education and the National Research Council should be subject to the Council of Ministers, that the National Archives should become part of the Prime Minister's Office falling within the competencies of minister of presidential affairs, and that the Zakat [religious alms] Affairs Chamber should become part of the Ministry of Orientation and Guidance.

The minister of culture and information concluded his statement by saying that delegations would visit African states after the end of the OAU summit with the aim of explaining the policies of the national salvation.

RCC Member Meets With Southern Delegation

EA2107204389 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 1930 GMT 20 Jul 89

[Text] Brigadier Pio Yokwan, member of the Revolutionary Command Council [RCC] and political supervisor of southern affairs, this morning met a delegation from the Pibor area. The delegation expressed support for the revolution and its stand by the side of the masses. The delegation criticized the former parties and their political practices which brought about economic, political, and social (?instability) in the country. The delegation said the civil war in the south had caused large numbers of citizens to flee from the south to the north. The delegation called on the revolutionary leadership to promote peace and stressed the need to rescue the citizens. The delegation delivered the greetings of Sultan Isma'il Kony, the sultan of Pibor, to the chairman and members of the RCC. Brig Pio stressed that the revolution stood for all the people as opposed to groupings or tribes, saying that the revolution welcomed the participation of all the citizens. He said that the offices of the revolutionary leaders were open to all, and that the revolutionaries had not come for the love of power but to serve the citizens. He told the Pibor delegation that he would ask the Operation Lifeline officials to include the Pibor area within the operation's relief activities.

Kuwait

Iran's Velayati Sends Message to Al-Ahmad

LD1907154689 Tehran IRNA in English 1355 GMT 19 Jul 89

[Text] Kuwait, July 19, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati sent a message to his Kuwaiti counterpart Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad on mutual ties, U.N. Resolution 598 and the peace negotiations with the Iraqi regime including Baghdad's obstruction of 598. The verbal message was conveyed by Iranian Charge d'Affaires Javad Torkabadi to Kuwaiti Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sa'ud Muhammad al-'Usaymi today.

1 AIDS Case, 25 Carriers Reported

LD2307140289 Kuwait KUNA in English 1333 GMT 23 Jul 89

[By Othman al-Dayel]

[Excerpts] Kuwait, July 23 (KUNA)—A Kuwaiti male, a carrier of the AIDS virus, was officially announced by the Public Health Ministry as an AIDS patient.

Health Undersecretary Nael al-Naqib told KUNA that the patient is one of 25 carriers of the killer virus, five of whom are Kuwaitis and the rest are of other nationalities.

Al-Naqib said that a Kuwaiti female had died of the lethal disease a long time ago. She was infected with the disease as a result of a blood transfusion in the United States. [passage omitted]

Director of the Contagious Diseases Hospital Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Anazi said that the only reported AIDS patient in Kuwait had responded to the primary treatment. He refused to disclose any information on the way by which the patient was infected with the AIDS virus.

Al-Anazi said that Kuwaiti nationals carrying the virus are kept under constant supervision and see their doctors under false names and numbers, while non-Kuwaiti carriers are deported.

He revealed that the Health Ministry has imported a British drug codenamed (RZT), which only prolongs the patient's resistance but does not kill the virus. It was tested in Britain, the United States and France.

Saudi Arabia

Iran Reports 'Asians' Questioned on Mecca Blasts

LD2307055589 Tehran IRNA in English 0535 GMT 23 Jul

[Text] Athens, July 23, IRNA—Saudi authorities probed 108 persons linked with three bomb blasts in Mecca last week killing one person and injuring 16 others, according to an Egyptian daily.

AL-AHRAM quoted an unnamed Saudi security official saying that a large number of those questioned were Asians. The results of the investigations will be announced next week.

Fahd, Bendjedid Discuss Lebanon, Arab Issues

LD2207234689 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2225 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah, 22 July 1989, (SPA)—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, received a telephone call today from his brother His Excellency President Chadli Bendjedid, the president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria.

The program of action and the contacts of the Arab Higher Tripartite Committee entrusted with solving the Lebanese crisis were discussed during the conversation and the results of the latest developments in Lebanon were reviewed.

The two great leaders also dealt with the current Arab issues and the continuation of work to unify Arab ranks and consolidate its solidarity.

King Fahd Receives Tunisian Prime Minister

LD2307170589 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Jeddah, 23 Jul (SPA)—King Fahd Ibn-'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, may God protect him, today received in his office in al-Salam Palace, Tunisian Prime Minister Hedi Baccouche.

Foreign Minister His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal and Mr Mohamed Jenifane, the appointed Tunisian ambassador to the Kingdom, also attended the meeting.

United Arab Emirates

President Zayid Visits UK, Meets Leaders

For coverage of the visit by President Zayid Ibn-Sultan Shaykh Al Nuhayyan to the United Kingdom, including his meeting with UK Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, see the United Kingdom section of the 19 July West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Jasim Interviewed on Israeli Threats, Kurds

JN2307100089 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
23 Jul 89 pp 1, 20

[By Ziyad al-Shillah]

[Text] Baghdad—Iraqi Culture and Information Minister Latif Nusayyif Jasim has paid tribute to the heroic intifadah [uprising] being staged by the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Palestinian territories and affirmed Iraq's rejection of Israeli Prime Minister Shamir's proposed plan for elections in these territories.

In reply to a question posed by AL-RA'Y correspondent, Jasim said: "We in Iraq strongly reject Shamir's plan." He indicated that this plan is a maneuver designed to place the ball in the court of the Palestinian resistance. He asserted that the resistance is stronger than the Zionist enemy and that the will of the Palestinian people will triumph in the end.

Jasim pointed out that Iraq cannot speak on behalf of the Palestinian brothers and said Iraq accepts what is approved and endorsed by the Palestinians. Jasim added that the United States, which is closer to Israel than any other state and which is also Israel's partner with regard to the Palestine question, has not given any indication regarding the future of the efforts to solve the Palestine question. He stated that Israel represents aggression. He added that Iraq does not consider the U.S. positions as an indivisible whole but on a case-by-case basis.

In reply to another question raised by the AL-RA'Y correspondent, Jasim asserted Iraq's unequivocal rejection of the Israeli threats and warnings targeting Iraq because of its military industries quest, the growth of its military prowess, and because of the claims that Iraq is building a nuclear reactor. Jasim added: We reject and do not accept these threats and warnings. Any attempt by Israel to launch an aggression against Iraqi territory will be met with all firmness and strength. We will reply to such an attempt. He added: We hope that the Israelis will not commit any foolish act for which they will be sorry. He stressed that the circumstances in Iraq in 1981 are different from those in 1989.

Jasim confirmed Iraq's principled position, which has been declared at all international fora and which calls for the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Lebanese territory so that the Lebanese can exercise their right to elect a president and form a government that controls all Lebanese territory. The Iraqi minister pointed out that there is a prevailing general trend regarding the need to adopt a unified information policy within the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member states. Such a policy would set general guidelines for confronting the international information media. He affirmed that the ACC member states, which displayed solidarity with Iraq during the war, will also show solidarity with Iraq in peace time. He referred to the importance of the resolutions issued by the ACC foreign ministers during their recent Amman meetings and which called for preserving the uniqueness of each Arab state within the ACC.

Jasim, who was speaking at a news conference at the Iraqi Information Ministry on 21 July, added: Iran's continued pursuit of arms supplies and its announcement that it is building a 20-million strong Army are indications of Iran's lack of desire for peace and lack of good faith regarding the attainment of peace. He confirmed that Iraq desires peace and displayed good faith in this regard when it disbanded an Iraqi Army corps and when it began the reconstruction of al-Basrah and of Al-Faw, which was totally destroyed by the Iranians. This comes at a time when Iran continues to call for continued mobilization. Jasim stated that the war will never re-erupt, as Iraq will not initiate hostilities. However, Jasim said, if the Iranian regime launches an aggression against Iraq, Iraq will make the appropriate response.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that any party which supplies Iran with weapons is against peace. He emphasized that Iraq does not threaten Iran with war. The opposite is true. Jasim said that Iraq views the war as having actually ended on 8 August 1988 with the decisive Iraqi victory over Iran, and not with Iran's acceptance of UN Security Council Resolution 598. Jasim explained that the reconstruction of al-Basrah and al-Faw has begun, and that the reconstruction of al-Basrah will be completed in less than 4 months. He said there are also plans to reconstruct al-Faw.

The Iraqi minister said the direct effects of the war have been overcome. He pointed out that the Iraqi side views the war as having ended, and that negotiations are the sound course to safeguard peace and the rights of the two sides and to prevent interference in domestic affairs. He stressed that negotiations are still underway with the Iranian side, which continues to procrastinate in an attempt to gain more time. He said Iraq firmly believes that peace is the only permanent and lasting law of life. Jasim said that the perpetuation of the no-war-no-peace situation is not in the interest of peace. He stated that the absence of Iranian decisionmaking may be the reason for this. However, following Khomeyni's death and the elections that will be held next month, we will see how serious Iran's desire for peace is. He stressed that the international community must bring pressure to bear on Iran to have it implement the international resolution.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim said that the Geneva agreement and Resolution 598 bind the two countries to exchange POW's following the cessation of military operations. However, the Iranian regime puts the fate of thousands of people at stake for the purpose of bargaining. He emphasized that the Iraqi side through the many speeches delivered by Saddam Husayn has submitted many proposals on the issue of exchanging prisoners. The question of exchanging sick and disabled POW's

was put forth. Iran agreed to this proposal but before the POW's boarded the planes, Iran claimed that they had recovered, and then canceled this exchange. Other proposals to exchange lists of the names of the POW's prior to their exchange and not to send them to the war once again, and to exchange POW's who have been in captivity for some time were also put forth. But the Iranian regime rejected all these proposals.

The Iraqi minister of culture and information said reports carried by suspect media organs against Iraq with respect to the issue of the Kurds are merely an attempt to obscure the resounding Iraqi military victory and to cover up the Zionist repressive measures against the great intifadah of the Palestinian Arab people in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim said Iraq under Saddam Husayn takes care of the Kurds and all the other minorities in Iraq, and that any action taken in Iraq is carried out within the framework of national sovereignty. He affirmed that Iraq's decision to empty the border strip, whether in the Kurdish or Arab areas, falls within the framework of Iraq's national security, and that Iraq is completely free to exercise its sovereignty over all of its territory. He added: The issue here is not one of human rights but of protecting Iraq's national security to prevent sabotage and the use of these border and remote areas as gateways to sabotage in Iraq. These are issues which are not subject to bargaining.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim explained the events in the Kurdish autonomous regions. He said that the old Kurdish issue started in the forties as a tribal issue. It was nurtured by Israel and the aggressive sides to become a national situation. Time factors turned it into a situation threatening Iraqi national security. He pointed out that Al-Barzani was collaborating with foreign hostile sides. He said that documents will soon be produced proving that Al-Barzani had relations with Israel and Britain. Jasim clarified that Iraq continued its attempts to solve the Kurdish problem democratically and politically based on recognizing all the national rights of all minorities.

A statement was issued on 11 March 1970 which followed a meeting between Saddam Husayn and Al-Barzani. However, Al-Barzani continued to make his personal, and not national, demands. He rebelled and escaped abroad. After that, autonomy was implemented in the Kurdish regions through the Legislative and Executive Council whose elections will take place at the beginning of next September. He pointed out that the Iraqi vice president [Taha Muhyi-al-Din Ma'ruf] is a Kurd and also a member of the party leadership while this is absent from the Constitution. There is a process of developement in the northern regions. He indicated that the northern regions are better off than the southern regions. He said Iraq is seeking to develop autonomy. Two newspapers have been licensed to be published in the Kurdish autonomous regions. The first newspaper had appeared the previous day and the second will be issued during the elections. He stated that the Kurds have the right to nominate candidates for the Kurdish Legislative Council in the north and the National Assembly in Iraq.

Jasim stated that during the war with Iran, Iran called up part of the Kurds, who, unfortunately, responded to its call, in addition to Al-Barzani's sons. They were used as tools to implement the Iranians' wishes. The situation became dangerous for nothern Iraq, where Iraq started bleeding in the north and south. However, he added that a large number of Kurds had the honor of defending Iraq whether in the north or any other region. They fought the Iranians within the ranks of the National Defense Regiments in Kurdistan and the Iraqi Army on all fronts to prevent the Iranian aggression from occupying the regions of al-Sulaymaniyah. Jasim affirmed that evacuating the border regions comes within the Iraqi national security plan. The Kurdish people have been moved to cities and residential settlements with all public services. He said Iraq has granted general amnesty to all Kurds in Turkey. The amnesty was extended to every individual who loves and believes in his country, except for Jalal al-Talabani who stated that he is not an Iraqi, as well as Al-Barzani's agent followers.

Labor, Likud Agree on Compromise To End Crisis

TA2307072289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0630 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] The great political crisis has ended. Labor ministers on the one hand, and Likud ministers on the other, approved by a great majority the draft compromise which will end the war over the braces [appended to the government's peace initiative by the Likud Central Committee on 5 July] between the Likud and the Alignment. Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i opposed this formulation and it is still unclear how they will vote in the cabinet meeting. Our correspondent Yaron Kulas reports from Jerusalem:

The following is the formulation of the compromise reached between the prime minister and the vice prime minister. Quote: The peace initiative, as approved by the cabinet on 14 May, and presented to the Knesset and ratified by it, remains valid, without any additions or changes. The government continues to act in accordance with the peace initiative, which binds the members of the government as approved as mentioned above. That is the end of the quote.

The second part of the announcement on the agreed formula neutralizes the cabinet decision from the constraints appended to it by the Likud Central Committee.

The Likud ministers' meeting was not very raucous, but there were disputes, as had been expected. Ministers Levi, Sharon, and Moda'i came to the meeting with a joint position. Deputy Prime Minister Levi wanted to vote as well on the Likud ministers' renewed commitment to the braces adopted at the central committee meeting. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, and after him Minister Moshe Nisim, rejected Levi's demand. Shamir said Minister Levi's demand is an affront to the ministers who have reaffirmed their commitment to decisions to which they themselves are partners.

Shamir announced that there would be no vote on Levi's demand because the matter was clear. Minister Ari'el Sharon also tried to press for a vote, but without result. Eight Likud Ministers—Shamir, Arens, Olmert, Milo, Meridor, Nisim, Pat, and Qatzav—voted in favor; Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i voted against.

The Labor ministers' meeting was simpler. There was only a vote on the motion. It seems the vote received a clear majority. 'Ezer Weizman and Refa'el Edri did not vote in favor. They were joined by Deputy Finance Minister Yosi Beilin and Alignment Faction Chairman Hayim Ramon, who participate permanently in the Alignment ministers' forum.

To conclude: The prime minister and the vice prime minister will jointly present this agreed upon formula for a vote. Therefore, the result is almost a forgone conclusion: It will receive a clear majority. The Likud-Alignment crisis has been eradicated. The issue now is what will happen inside the Likud, how the three ministers who oppose the move—Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i—will act. We will, of course, know that only after the cabinet meeting.

Peres Comments on Decision

TA2307110189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1005 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Interview with Shim'on Peres, vice prime minister and finance minister, by Arye Golan at the Prime Minister's Office after the cabinet session on 23 July—live]

[Excerpt] [Golan] Mr Peres, I would first like to ask you about the crisis that was averted over the peace initiative. How do you feel now? Two weeks ago at the Labor Party Central Committee you mentioned withdrawal from the cabinet in a rather determined fashion, whereas today we find you still in.

[Peres] That is correct. The circumstances have changed. We said that if we restored the status quo ante, we would remain as before. A situation was created in which there were two contradictory resolutions: one a cabinet resolution, the other the Likud Central Committee resolution. Today the cabinet ruled that its decisions on the peace initiative are binding on its ministers, not just on the cabinet. That, to my mind, is the change, and it led me to conclude that it is possible to live with the situation. If there is only one resolution—in other words, if only the peace initiative is valid—all is well.

[Golan] Now there remains only the minor problem of finding an Arab partner. Do you think that Minister 'Ezer Weizman is wrong in claiming that those who desire peace should talk to the PLO?

[Peres] I think that the fact that we have not talked to the PLO has brought the PLO to the brink of peace. If we had recognized the PLO 10 years ago, for instance, it would still not have changed. Now the Palestinians must make another move forward; namely, switching from decisions made by arms to decisions made by ballots. There is a possibility of this coming about. Let them move forward a little more. There are some areas where I believe we can make it easier for the Palestinians to enter the picture; for example, in areas mentioned in the Camp David accords such as legitimate rights or political rights, their right to consult with whomever they want, and other such issues.

[Golan] What about the East Jerusalem Arabs' vote? It seems that for the PLO and the United States this is a must, an unalterable condition.

[Peres] When the issue is put up to a vote, we will decide on it. I hope we will have a Cabinet majority on this matter.

[Golan] Including Likud ministers?

[Peres] I would not like to speak for anyone. [passage omitted]

Shamir Elaborates on Accord

TA2307191289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Arab affairs correspondent Ehud Ya'ari at the Daniyel Tower Hotel in Herzliyya on 23 July, during a reception hosted by Egyptian Ambassador Muhammad Basyuni on the occasion of Egypt's Revolution Day—videotaped]

[Text] [Ya'ari] Mr Prime Minister, how would you sum up today's cabinet decision? What is binding on you today, sir?

[Shamir] The cabinet decision should be understood as such. The peace initiative adopted by the cabinet is valid and in effect despite all the layers of interpretations said and written about it.

[Ya'ari] Sir, are you bound today by the cabinet's renewed decision which stipulates that the peace initiative is valid without additions and amendments, or by remarks you yourself made at the 5 July Likud Central Committee session?

[Shamir] There is no contradiction there. What is involved is the cabinet decision without additions and changes as it stands today. We all know that in due course we will have to make different decisions. This and everything decided by my party's institutions apply to the future.

[Ya'ari] Sir, do you believe that the initiative can be developed without your disavowing those resolutions adopted by the Likud Central Committee?

[Shamir] Look, one thing should be clear: I, as a person loyal to the principles of the Likud, of my movement, wholeheartedly believe that we can reach peace with these principles. This should be understood, once and for all.

[Ya'ari] For instance, I was told by Vice Prime Minister Peres a few minutes ago that he would like to begin contacts with Palestinian personages in the territories in the coming days. Do you believe this is what should be done now?

[Shamir] I maintain contacts with Arab notables in Judaea and Samaria. I do not view this as a negotiations stage yet, but it is clear that talks and contacts should be held. This is always good; today too, definitely.

[Ya'ari] I understand that several Labor Party ministers would be prepared to accept Egypt's 10 points of clarifications more or less without change. Is this acceptable to you too, sir?

[Shamir] Look, since the start of the moves connected to the peace initiative we have adopted a clear and correct tactical position: We should first have an agreement in principle from any Arab on the tenets of the initiative and the entire course of action specified in it. Later, we shall enter a discussion on the specifics. I think we should all carefully abide by this approach. This is the way that can guarantee success.

[Ya'ari] Last question, sir: Rumors were flying on the possibility of your intention to dismiss Industry and Trade Minister Sharon today. Why did you change your mind?

[Shamir] Nobody knows what my opinion was and why I changed it, if I did so at all. I do what I think is correct.

[Ya'ari] This means that Mr Sharon will remain a cabinet member, does it not?

[Shamir] I do what I think is correct.

[Ya'ari] Thank you.

Levi on Political Dangers

TA2307192289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1900 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister David Levi says that today's cabinet decision leaves those issues disputed between the Alignment and the Likud vague. This vagueness, according to Levi, is dangerous, not only from the viewpoint of the Likud, but also from the viewpoint of the entire political campaign.

During a tour of the south, Levi said that the vagueness may lead the Americans to think that there is room for compromise on these issues, that they are not issues of principle from Israel's point of view. This is how, for instance, one can interpret the United States' behavior regarding its ties with the PLO, since the United States believes Israel is not unequivocal in its opposition to negotiations with that organization.

Labor Central Committee To Meet

TA2307124889 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] The Labor Party Central Committee meeting scheduled to convene to discuss the political initiative will not be called off despite the cabinet decision to re-endorse the peace plan.

Mikha Harish, Labor Party secretary general, told our correspondent Shalom Oren that although the cabinet clarified its intentions, its decision did not resolve the problem because of the damage already dealt to the peace initiative by the Likud Central Committee decision, and because the prime minister continues to make contradictory statements.

Mr Harish stressed that the party'
the final authority for the decision central committee is
in the coalition. Harish added tlon whether to remain
majority in the committee wouldat he believes that a
partnership in the government. vote to continue the

Shamir on 'Peace I

TA2307175089 Jerusalem Domestitiative'
1605 GMT 23 Jul 89 *c Service in Hebrew*

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Sha
the cabinet again approved the pmir believes that after
efforts to implement it will contineace initiative today,
with our correspondent Serge Kowue. Mr Shamir spoke
memorial service for Herzl, the fatach at the end of the
took place on Mount Herzl today.her of the state, which

I will meet with more Palestinian
the prime minister said, adding: and Arab personages,
vince all representatives of the inteVe are trying to con-
to help us persuade the Arabs and rnational community
this peace plan. Palestinians to accept

As for the U.S. Senate decision o
PLO dialogue, the prime minist restricting the U.S.-
positive decision which will help er believes this is a
Palestinians and Arabs, to moderaother elements, both
te their position.

Cabinet Setting 'Downl

TA2407072389 Tel Aviv IDF Radioill' Course
0500 GMT 24 Jul 89 *in Hebrew*

[Telephone interview with David
minister and construction and h Levi, deputy prime
Mikha Friedman and Goni Mardousing minister, by
r—live]

[Excerpt] [Friedman] Good mor
Minister David Levi. ning, Deputy Prime

[Levi] Good morning.

[Friedman] After yesterday's cabin
cryptically that many interesting thet meeting, you said
in the cabinet. Later you said elsings will soon happen
round will take place. What did yosewhere that another
u mean?

[Levi] I do not know where this rep
comes from. We are not in a boxinport of another round
that we refrain from turning this g ring. All I suggest is
stantive issue, which concerns the very serious and sub-
into a personal matter. All those wh future of the nation,
settle accounts are turning the mato speak of the need to
personal struggles and are pushing tter into an arena for
I think this is a mistake. essential issues aside.

[Friedman] We are not dealing with
I would simply like to ask you to personal issues here.
plained remark of yours that many o address that unex-
happen in the cabinet. interesting things will

[Levi] I am willing to explain. We had to determine our position on the issues that remain open, because this initiative contains many open points to which no answers have been provided. Now, the Americans have said plainly: If no answers satisfactory to the PLO are provided... [changes thought] We should listen very carefully to this, because if these points are left open, we will face a very difficult period, both with respect to the cabinet and its unity and with respect to our relations with the United States. As I have already stated, I do not agree that a cabinet crisis was necessary. Anyone attuned to Alignment politics could see that although the Alignment did what it did, all it wanted was to climb down from the tall tree it had climbed.

[Mardor] Nevertheless, the differences over the essential issues between you and the Alignment remain unresolved.

[Levi] Certainly, certainly. This is precisely what I want to explain. The Alignment would have climbed down from the tall tree with no more than the prime minister's announcement that the resolution adopted by the cabinet remains valid. We do not wish to force our positions on them, and they will not do that to us, either. What happened yesterday was that the prime minister, contrary to all he had said in the meeting of Likud ministers and what he had announced officially to the media, that is, that he would not bring the matter for another vote—despite all that, he acted otherwise. The political outcome, whether the Likud likes it or not, is as follows: The Alignment has won this battle, while the Likud has caved in. This is the political significance of this development. The Alignment's course has changed from downhill to takeoff at the expense of the Likud.

I suggest we go back to what Minister Rabin said in the Labor Central Committee, remarks which Shim'on Peres repeated today: Once their demands are met they will remain in the government and will attempt to hold meetings with Palestinians, at which they will promote their party's political stands and views. As a result, the Likud will find itself in a catch. This is the obvious political outcome.

[Mardor] Do you not think that course is legitimate?

[Levi] It is. What is not legitimate is saying that one remains faithful to the Likud resolutions as proposed by the prime minister and then doing the opposite, giving the partner, the Alignment, a golden opportunity to promote its views under the guise of representing the state. From its point of view, the Alignment is absolutely right. There will now be more than one voice in the cabinet, because the cabinet has again left all the debated points open. The Alignment will be correct in saying that it is not violating any rules. It is the Likud that has a problem.

[Friedman] Will you, together with your colleagues Sharon and Moda'i, demand that the Likud Central Committee be reconvened, in order to force the prime minister to act in accordance with the party resolutions?

[Levi] We will consult and decide what should be done in this respect. The path now goes dangerously downhill, because foreign elements—the Americans, Arabs, European countries—will all demand that we honor our commitments. It will be interesting to see how our colleagues will vote, how they will save this partnership, whether the price will be similar to what we paid yesterday. If part of the Likud joins the Alignment on the cardinal issues, then a new political reality will be created.

[Friedman] But Yitzhaq Shamir says that yesterday's decision in the cabinet does not imply even the slightest change in the Likud Central Committee resolutions.

[Levi] Well, we will see. If that is true, then all the talk about the initiative now having a better chance than ever does not have a leg to stand on. There is a chance perhaps to heal some imaginary rift, but I can see a far more serious rift materializing in the very near future.

[Mardor] Could you share with us your scenario of how this rift will be healed?

[Levi] First of all, I am very sorry to say that the Americans are acting as if Israel had no stand on the matter, and when Israel expresses its views, the United States does not take them into consideration. The dialogue with the PLO is intensifying. Now we are told that the PLO, in one form or another, is the only chance to promote the initiative. Every day the PLO spreads different reports, which I have always tended to disregard as psychological warfare. Recently, however, more and more details are becoming known which should be examined very closely, because if we do not, we will find ourselves in a terrible trap. If the situation is really as it appears to be, then people should not be deceived and deluded. They should be told the truth in no uncertain terms; otherwise we will pay the highest price in the world and get a slap in the face to boot. [passage omitted]

Effects of 'Compromise' Defense Budget Noted

TA2407090989 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 89 pp 1, 8

[Report by Avi Temkin and Ken Kaplan]

[Excerpts] The cabinet yesterday approved a compromise on the Defence Ministry budget granting a one-time supplement of NIS [new Israeli shekels] 150 million this year and another NIS 50m. in fiscal 1990.

The compromise formula was hammered out between Finance Minister Shim'on Peres and Defence Minister Yitzhaq Rabin prior to the cabinet meeting. The Defence Ministry had originally asked to augment its budget by NIS 409m., which it claimed was necessary to finance army operations aimed at quelling the Palestinian uprising in the territories.

Senior military sources, reacting to the cabinet's decision, warned that failure to reimburse the IDF fully for its expenses would severely impair the army's deterrent ability in the short and long terms. [passage omitted]

According to the terms of the compromise, this year's NIS 150m. supplement will not be taken into account in preparing the Defence Ministry's budget for the coming fiscal year. The baseline for that budget will be the original defense budget approved by the cabinet and the Knesset. The Treasury will then tack on an additional NIS 50m., also on a one-time basis, which will not be considered when drafting the budget for the fiscal year 1991/92.

The sources said one major project likely to suffer from the army's failure to receive the full sum requested is the plan to purchase two new submarines for the navy. Until now, Rabin has delayed a General Staff decision to indefinitely pospone the submarine project, waiting for the government to decide on the budget supplement. While the submarines were to be largely financed by U.S. military aid, a significant sum of shekels was to have been spent on the local production of a number of systems for the vessels.

The sources said the army would have to study the implications of the diminished budget supplement and re-examine the carefully constructed multi-year plan. Two versions of the plan were formulated, but neither took into account the net NIS 250 million cut in the defence budget implied by the government's decision.

Both the yearly budget and the multi-year plans are constructed in modular units, which facilitates programme cuts, one senior source noted. Nevertheless, the cuts would be a serious blow to the IDF's planned force-building and to its deterrent ability, he said.

Extra Defense Funds Approved

TA2307102389 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Excerpts] The cabinet approved a supplementary defense budget of 150 million shekels following an agreement reached this morning between the defense and finance ministers. Our economic affairs correspondent Yaron Kulas reports from Jerusalem:

An agreement is always reached at the last moment. The Defense Ministry demanded 415 million shekels; the Treasury agreed to approve only 100 to 200 million shekels. In the end, the Defense Ministry will receive a supplementary budget of 150 million shekels this year. Some 60 to 70 percent of this sum will be earmarked for

the defense industries to cut the level of unemployment. Some 10,000 people have been fired from defense industries in recent years. [passage omitted]

As expected, the cabinet a short time ago approved the compromise proposal by the prime minister and the vice prime minister on the peace initiative—and as expected Likud Ministers Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i, and Alignment Minister 'Ezer Weizman, voted against it. Alignment Minister Edri abstained on that vote. Our correspondent Shlomi Stein reports from the Prime Minister's Office:

The Israeli Government reaffirmed its decision of 14 May on its peace initiative—without the Likud Central Committee's braces—which was ratified by the Knesset. The joint proposal by the prime minister and the vice prime minister was approved prior to the cabinet meeting at the two parties' ministerial forums, therefore it was clear the government's original peace initiative would be reendorsed today.

Minister Yitzhaq Moda'i asked the prime minister to consult with the attorney general on whether a second vote on a decision already made by the cabinet was legal. The prime minister responded that it is a political and not legal problem, and went ahead with the vote.

The vote was on the following formula: The peace initiative as approved by the cabinet on 14 May, and presented to the Knesset and ratified by it, remains valid, without any additions or changes. The government continues to act in accordance with the peace initiative, which binds the members of the government as mentioned above. That is the proposal which became the cabinet decision.

The proposal was supported by 24 ministers. Four ministers—Sharon, Levi, and Moda'i, and Alignment Minister 'Ezer Weizman, who was upset that the proposal did not say anything about the inclusion of the PLO around a potential negotiating table—voted against the proposal. Alignment Minister Refa'el Edri abstained. Therefore, the cabinet a short time ago reaffirmed its peace initiative without the braces.

USSR's Tarasov Expected for Talks on Election Plan

TA2407061189 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 24 Jul 89 pp 1, 12

[Report from Moscow by Amnon Kapeliuk]

[Excerpts] Gennadiy Tarasov, who was recently appointed personal adviser to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on Middle Eastern and Israeli-Arab conflict affairs, will visit Israel soon.

This was reported to me by a reliable Moscow source. Tarasov's arrival in Israel was sanctioned by Gorbachev. This will be the first official visit to Israel by a senior Soviet official since Moscow severed its relations with Israel after the 6-Day War, 22 years ago. Tarasov will come here to conduct talks on the Middle East and the Palestinian problem.

In his talks in Israel, Tarasov will seek clarifications on the cabinet's election plan: What is the purpose of the elections; who will participate in them; what international guarantees will be provided to make sure that they are conducted properly; what will be the PLO's role in them; and, finally, whether they are intended to pave the way for a comprehensive settlement.

Tarasov has informed the Palestinian leadership of his intention to come to Israel soon. Last week in Tunis he held extensive talks with Yasir 'Arafat and other Palestine National Council personalities. On their agenda were the efforts to promote the convocation of an international conference and an assessment of the chances of Shamir's election plan.

The Palestinians and the Soviets expressed cautious optimism in view of U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's declaration that if Shamir's plan fails, it will be necessary to review the option of an international conference.

I have learned that both the Soviets and the Palestinians are prepared to become more flexible on some details regarding the conference, but they believe there is no substitute for it as a means of solving the conflict. [passage omitted]

Several months ago Tarasov suggested meeting with Israeli Government representatives to discuss the peace process. This offer came in light of the fact that the plan to hold meetings of experts from both countries ran aground. The Soviets suggested that the meeting between Tarasov and Israeli Foreign Ministry representatives be held in Rhodes, but the Foreign Ministry and the prime minister shared the view that the idea, which was brought to the Foreign Ministry via the Soviet consular delegate in Tel Aviv, should be rejected. "We are prepared to meet only in Jerusalem," was the Foreign Ministry's response to Moscow.

Whereas in the past, visits by official Soviet representatives were always cloaked in secrecy, this time it is an open visit. [passage omitted]

[Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew at 0500 GMT on 24 July adds that in reply to a question to the Foreign Ministry spokesman on whether he had any information on the Soviet envoy's proposed meeting, he said "he could not confirm Tarasov's visit in Israel because the Foreign Ministry has received no announcement on such a visit."]

'Useful Dialogue' Proposed

TA2407102189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] The Foreign Ministry in Jerusalem says it has not been informed that the senior Soviet Foreign Ministry official, Gennadiy Tarasov, intends to visit Israel, as the newspaper YEDI'OT AHARONOT reported today. However, the Foreign Ministry spokesman, in reply to a question, said Israel will not reject any opportunity for a useful dialogue with the Soviet Union.

About 3 months ago Moscow proposed a meeting between Tarasov and an Israeli representative in Nicosia [as heard], but the foreign minister replied that the proper place to set the meeting is Jerusalem or Moscow.

Ben-Aharon Denies U.S. Called For Apology

TA2307070289 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Telephone interview with Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, by Mikha Friedman—live]

[Text] [Friedman] Good morning, Yosi Ben-Aharon.

[Ben-Aharon] Good morning.

[Friedman] You have said that it is the moment of truth in our relations with the United States. On another occasion you added that relations with the United States are in fact strained because of the United States' continued dialogue with the PLO. The U.S. Administration regards your remarks as an intervention in its affairs and damaging to the peace process, and expects a public apology from you. You can use this public opportunity, if you like.

[Ben-Aharon] If there was even a grain of truth in the story I would, of course, apologize, but the entire story is a fabrication. Relations between countries are not a matter of taking personal offense and apologies. The truth is that we have a real problem which affects the State of Israel's most vital interests; that is the dialogue the United States is conducting with the PLO in Tunis, to our great displeasure and contrary to our position. That is something affecting only the State of Israel. What the PLO wants from the United States is not at the expense of the United States, but at the expense of the State of Israel.

That is why the Israeli Government has exploited all levels and avenues to explain the dialogue's problems and obstacles. It is inconceivable that the Israeli Government's peace initiative could be fruitful if this dialogue continues and the PLO is assigned to play a part in advancing a settlement.

[Friedman] With your permission, I would like to return to the story which you say is a fabrication. Are you saying that the remarks attributed to (Dan Kurzer) were not said to Charge d'Affaires 'Eran?

[Ben-Aharon] The U.S. Administration is, of course, not pleased with the fact that we keep issuing warnings about the dialogue in diplomatic meetings and announcements to the media. They view this as disrupting an action that they believe serves Israel's interest. We, however, regret this action and say that our interests call for the cessation of this dialogue in order to give the government's peace initiative a chance to be implemented.

[Friedman] When both Shamir and Arens conferred with President Bush at the White House they deliberately avoided bringing up a demand to stop the dialogue with the PLO, as you have been doing, because it could be seen in the United States as intervention in their internal affairs.

[Ben-Aharon] That is not accurate. The Israeli Government at all levels is telling the United States that this dialogue is an obstacle.

[Friedman] Shamir and Arens did not tell Bush that, is that not correct?

[Ben-Aharon] I reiterate that the Government of Israel at all levels is signaling the United States that this dialogue is a hindrance and a most serious obstacle to advancing the peace process.

[Friedman] The words and signals have not been too successful. Only last night, following the Senate's decision, the State Department spokesman said that the dialogue will continue. He also did not rule out the possibility that the dialogue with Abu-Iyad [Salah Khalaf] himself, despite the legislation limiting the contacts adopted by the Senate last week, will continue. How do you respond to that?

[Ben-Aharon] Well, we are divided on that. There is a dispute between us and the United States on a most important issue, and we hope that the U.S. Administration will reach the conclusion as soon as possible that this dialogue does not contribute anything because the United States will not be able to respond to a single demand of the PLO terrorist organization which is conducting the dialogue.

[Friedman] THE WASHINGTON POST, which has probably been informed by some spokesman there, said the Pelletreau-Abu-Iyad talks contributed, in the U.S. view, the best results so far in this dialogue.

[Ben-Aharon] That is the whole point; any fruit contributed by that dialogue is rotten fruit to us because they cannot advance anything. It has already been said many times: The aim of our peace initiative is to reach an understanding with the Arab inhabitants of Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip. We have nothing to offer,

and it is inconceivable that we could offer anything, that would be acceptable to Tunis, because between us and the PLO there is an enormous abyss which cannot be bridged.

[Friedman] Therefore, we return to your initial remarks about the moment of truth and relations with the United States, which are tense. What then should we do if the Americans do not heed our advice and continue along their deviant path, as you have said?

[Ben-Aharon] I would not use that expression. I would only like to say that our political relations with the United States are firm and strong. As all those here who deal with the issue believe in the vital importance of these relations, we felt hurt—not only we in the Israeli Government. The vital issue of making progress in a peace settlement, however, has been damaged by the dialogue as well. We are therefore determined to continue issuing warnings and claims, and trying to convince them until the U.S. Administration reaches the conclusion that this is not the way to proceed.

[Friedman] Yosi Ben-Aharon, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office, thank you very much.

[Ben-Aharon] Thank you.

U.S. Reacts to Remarks

TA2207193289 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] The tension between Israel and the United States surrounding the PLO issue is growing.

The United States announced this week that if the dialogue with the PLO were to stop, it would actually mean the end of the peace initiative.

This statement was made by a senior official in the U.S. State Department to the charge d'affaires at the Israeli Embassy in Washington. The State Department also suggests that Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, publicly retract his statement in which he said that relations between the two countries are approaching the moment of truth. Here is our correspondent Yig'al Goren with more details on the conversation in Washington and the tension around the PLO question:

President Bush himself declared this week that the dialogue with the PLO has reached an unexpected crossroads. Bush placed himself at the forefront of the battle against the Senate's attempt to prevent the continuation of this dialogue, while in Israel, the director general of the Prime Minister's Office asserted that relations between the two countries are approaching the moment of truth—very harsh terminology in the diplomatic lexicon.

Against the background of Ben-Aharon's statements and the battle in the Senate, (Dan Kurtzer), the senior U.S. expert on Middle East affairs, summoned 'Oded 'Eran, charge d'affaires at the Israeli Embassy, and told him unequivocally that Ben-Aharon's statements are harmful to the peace process. (Kurtzer) added that Ben-Aharon would be well advised to consider publicly retracting what he had said. Responding to the the Israeli diplomat's explanation that Israel opposes the U.S. dialogue with the PLO, (Kurtzer) said that Israel had not made its peace initiative contingent on the United States calling off its talks with the PLO, adding that had Israel done so, the United States would not have supported the Israeli initiative.

A source who figures prominently in shaping U.S. foreign policy in the region asserted that a halt to the dialogue with the PLO would mean the death of the peace initiative.

Observers in Jerusalem believe that this meeting only sharpened the differences between the two countries. The Prime Minister's Office and the Foreign Ministry are doing all they can to block the PLO's involvement in the political process. The United States, on the contrary, regards the PLO to be the cornerstone needed to further the process. It is clear, however, even to the PLO's detractors in Jerusalem, that without U.S. support there is no initiative.

This is the major problem Israel will have to confront in the near future.

'Strong Reservations' Voiced

TA2307045189 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Official circles in Washington and Jerusalem have voiced strong reservations about a statement by Yosi Ben-Aharon, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, that the United States must choose between support for the Israeli peace initiative and the dialogue with the PLO. An official in Washington said the United States would never have adopted the initiative if Israel had imposed such a condition, and an official source in Jerusalem said Ben-Aharon was expressing only his own opinion. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Passage omitted] Here in Jerusalem there were raised eyebrows when Ben-Aharon's statement appeared on the news media. One official told me last night Ben-Aharon was not expressing official policy, only his own opinion. Israel has never demanded that the United States break off the dialogue, the official explained, because it knows Washington would never comply, and there is no point in making a demand that is sure to be rejected. So why lose face? Israel has expressed its disapproval of the U.S. dialogue, and has told Washington it is making a mistake because the PLO has not really recognized Israel's right to exist and has not renounced terrorism, nor even lived up to the U.S. conditions for the dialogue, Jerusalem maintains. But official circles say this is a far cry from delivering an ultimatum to the United States. [end recording]

[In a related story, Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English on 23 July reports "Ben-Aharon has refused to backtrack from his assessment in a recent interview that relations between Jerusalem and Washington were reaching a 'moment of truth' in the wake of the U.S.-PLO dialogue." "'I do not deal in semantics,' Ben-Aharon told THE POST, 'The fact is that the administration's dialogue with the PLO is obstructing progress on our peace initiative, and this has clear consequences for our relations with Washington.'"]

Shamir Aide Denies Meeting PLO Official in Paris

TA2207162089 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1600 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] The Prime Minister's Office has denied a report issued in Paris claiming that a meeting between the prime minister's adviser on the Palestinian issue and a senior PLO official took place there last week.

Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, told our correspondent Ze'ev Kohen that the report is a blatant lie and another invention of the PLO. He added that this is not the first time that the PLO has disseminated similar falsehoods. Pazner asserted that such meetings have not taken place nor will they ever take place in the future.

Jerusalem 'Jittery' Over Swiss PLO Decision

TA2407100689 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 24 Jul 89 p 1

[Report by diplomatic correspondent Menahem Shalev]

[Excerpts] The Swiss Government holds the key to a major breakthrough by the PLO in its hitherto unsuccessful effort to join international organizations: Berne, and Berne alone, will decide whether the declared State of Palestine becomes a signatory to the Geneva Conventions.

Ever since the PLO asked to subscribe to the Conventions several weeks ago, the Swiss have been subjected to conflicting diplomatic pressures. Jerusalem, Washington and several other Western capitals have been urging Berne to reject the application; Arab and Eastern bloc capitals have been just as strenuously arguing the opposite. And officials in Jerusalem are getting increasingly jittery about the lack of a clear Swiss response.

If the Swiss do not reject the PLO application, the "State of Palestine" will automatically be allowed to participate in the next conference of the International Red Cross. It will thus have reversed its recent setbacks at the World Health Organization and International Telecommunications Union, whose member countries retreated in the face of explicit American threats to slash contributions if the PLO was accepted. [passage omitted]

Israeli officials refuse to state what Israel's response will be, and whether it will weigh disengagement from the Conventions if the State of Palestine is accepted. "But one cannot understate the gravity of this matter," they say, "for, among other things, it will constitute a major landmark toward the legitimization of the 'State of Palestine.'"

Mubarak Refusal To Meet Shamir 'Worrisome'

TA2407103789 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 24 Jul 89 p A10

[Report by Arye Bender]

[Text] Foreign Minister Moshe Arens said yesterday that the Egyptian president's refusal to hold a summit meeting with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir "is worrisome, because a state of peace prevails between the two countries. In such a state of affairs it is only normal for leaders at the topmost level to meet." Arens was addressing dozens of Jewish youths from Israel and the diaspora who congregated in Jerusalem within the framework of the "Next Year in Jerusalem" campaign.

[Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew on 24 July carries a front-page report by its political correspondent in Jerusalem, adding that although President Mubarak refuses to meet with Shamir, he "is prepared to meet with Foreign Minister Moshe Arens. The above was reported to the cabinet yesterday by Minister Arye Der'i, who has just returned from Egypt, where he met with the Egyptian president and various ministers."]

Classes Resume as West Bank Schools Reopen

TA2207072289 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0700 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Studies in Judaea and Samaria elementary schools and the 12th grade of high schools resumed this morning. Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that classes resumed after 2 years of disruptions to the system due to the intifadah [uprising]. The defense establishment decided to permit the schools to reopen gradually. Thus, junior high schools and the other high school grades will resume classes in the next few weeks.

The various bodies spearheading the uprising have expressed support for the resumption of studies.

Brigadier General Shay Erez, the head of the Civil Administration, toured Tulkarm schools today and told the students that if order is maintained, classes will continue normally.

Netanyahu on 'Atmosphere'

TA2207111789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Binyamin Netanyahu by Shlomo Berger on the "Spotlight" program; date, place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Berger] Do you think that the reopening of the schools is going to lead to an improvement in the atmosphere, for example?

[Netanyahu] Well, we certainly hope so. In fact, I would even say that the improvement in the atmosphere is leading to the opening of the schools. We have no interest whatsoever in making life hard on anyone of the Palestinian Arabs, their families, their children. On the contrary. The reason the schools were closed in the first place was because they served as centers of agitation, essentially for child abuse, using children as political cannon fodder. We always thought that was a reprehensible thing, and we closed the schools, among other things, to avoid this kind of provocation and this kind of abuse. But as things quieted down a bit, the security personnel have decided to reopen, on the assumption that first of all things have improved, and second as a signal, I would say, to the Palestinian Arab population that if they cooperate with us and keep the peace and tranquility, we will certainly cooperate with them.

[Berger] Mr Netanyahu, one final question, if I may. Next week you're off to London and Paris, I understand, for talks with your counterparts there. Do you think that there is now a danger that the EC, with France as its head, is going to try and get more involved with the idea of an international conference now?

[Netanyahu] That has been the French position throughout, and it may receive additional emphasis with France's assumption of the leadership of the EC now. We're certainly going to make our position clear we are not going to go to such a conference. But we are always trying to persuade our European friends and European governments that they have to really choose between the path of going down the PLO line, which means an international conference adopting the various formulations of the PLO, and our initiative. I think that really is the message that we're offering the European governments—France, England, and the others—choose: the PLO, or the Israeli initiative. But you cannot have both.

'No Special Incidents' Reported

TA2207201789 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 2000 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Residents in the Gaza Strip claim that 10 people were wounded by IDF [Israel Defense Forces] gunfire over the weekend. The IDF spokesman said he knows of only three wounded.

A resident of the Khan Yunus refugee camp was stabbed in the chest yesterday, apparently after being suspected of collaborating with the authorities. The man was hospitalized in Barzilay Hospital in Ashqelon.

Our correspondent Arye Gus reports that an almost total commercial strike was observed in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip today. The strike was called by HAMAS [Islamic Resistance Movement] to show solidarity with deported Palestinians.

Studies resumed in Judaea and Samaria this morning. Classes proceeded normally and no special incidents were reported.

Al-Qasim on Israeli 'Schemes' Against Jordan

JN2107201989 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Amman—Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, held a news conference at noon today in which he spoke on the results of the four meetings that the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] foreign ministers held in Amman during the past 2 days.

The foreign minister spoke on the Lebanese issue and said: The ACC foreign ministers voiced their deep sorrow over the continuation of the Lebanese tragedy and declared anew the four countries' support for the Arab tripartite committee's efforts to find a final solution to the Lebanese crisis—a solution that would safeguard Lebanon's unity, sovereignty, and future.

The foreign minister added: The Arab tripartite committee must be given more time to decide on what has to be done to reach the desired result designed to achieve an immediate cease-fire, reopen the crossings between east and west Beirut, lift the blockades, and hold a meeting for the Lebanese Chamber of Deputies. He went on to say: His Majesty King Husayn earlier proposed ideas on the issue pertaining to the need to form an Arab peacekeeping force with equal numbers of troops [from the countries to be involved in the process] to assure the Arab parties, safeguard the security of Lebanon, and protect it from the Israeli danger.

In reply to a question on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's plan on elections in the occupied Arab territories, al-Qasim said: From the outset, Jordan has believed that there is an Israeli attempt to procrastinate and evade the confrontation of an inescapable fact; namely, that of negotiating with the Palestinian party involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict. That is, negotiating with the PLO. This is the stand of most Arab states. He added: It was clear that the Arab leaders' support for the PLO's stand at the Casablanca summit was a rejection of Shamir's election plan, as this plan seeks to end the intifadah [uprising] and turn the conflict from an Arab-Israeli one into a conflict that spares Israel the fate of shouldering its responsibilities.

Al-Qasim said: Jordan supports the PLO in its stand regarding the holding of elections in a free and democratic atmosphere in which the Palestinians of the occupied territories can express their sentiments concerning their aspirations and demands.

In reply to a question on the Israeli doubt-casting campaign targeting Jordan, the minister said: Israel has persisted over the past 40 years—and this has been proven by its consistent attempts in this region and in the Arab arena—to propagate rumors and lies targeting Jordan and the Arab nation. Since 1967, Jordan has unmasked Israel when Jordan accepted the land-for-peace formula. Since that time and up to now, Israel has been seeking to undermine this country through launching never-ending rumors about it and also through attempting to portray the economic situation here as too difficult to tackle with the aim of giving the impression that Jordan is weak and unstable. He affirmed: The ability of our news media, our frankness with the people, and their support have foiled Israel's schemes and turned Jordan into a country that is capable of coping with this situation. Through the awareness of these people, we have managed to uncover all Israeli attempts to target this country.

Editorial Debunks 'Threat' of Palestinian State

JN2207084489 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jul 89 p 4

[Editorial: "Jordan Has No Fears"]

[Text] One of the principal myths that Israel keeps advancing on the international arena to frustrate the Palestinian exercise of self-determination is the absurd notion that an independent Palestinian state would constitute a fatal threat to both Israel and Jordan. In so doing Israeli leaders opted to capitalise on Jordan's exemplary reputation world-wide and to exploit it in an attempt to solicit support for its determined policy to abort the creation of a free and democratic Palestinian state on Palestinian soil. Many well-intentioned governments have fallen in this well-manipulated Israeli trap and started believing in this big Israel lie.

His Majesty King Husayn's words to the European Atlantic Group in London Thursday [20 July] laid to rest the outrageous Israeli claim that the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan has a lot to fear from a Palestinian state. In fact the Kingdom has no fears from any quarter. The theme of the King's speech to the group was the subject of an independent Palestinian state, which he described as an essential component of any peace settlement of the broader Arab-Israeli conflict. His Majesty went on to say that the security and well-being of Jordan and all states in the region, including Israel, can only have expression in the context of a comprehensive peace settlement of the Palestinian case and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict.

So let it be known everywhere, especially in Tel Aviv, that an independent Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip does not and will not pose any threat to Jordan. On the contrary, given the new facts in the Middle East, such a state has become a sine qua non to a permanent peace in the Middle East. King Husayn's categorical rejection of the "phobia complex" associated with the creation of an independent state of Palestine on national Palestinian soil is tantamount to serving all parties with a political notice that Jordan's acceptance of the establishment of such a state is firm and final. No party, especially Israel, should continue to delude itself with false and bankrupt hopes that the so-called Jordan option can still be resurrected. As His Majesty King Husayn has poignantly informed the world through the

European Atlantic Group, Jordan's decision to yield full responsibility to the Palestinians over their future course was not taken precipitously but rather carefully and thoughtfully after twenty years of bitter and painful experiences. It would be prudent, therefore, to move ahead in the quest for a permanent and just settlement of the Palestinian case and the broader Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of emerging new foundations and facts rather than looking backward.

Paper Rebukes Israeli 'Lies' on Dinar

JN2207105889 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 22 Jul 89 pp 1, 24

[Editorial: "Goebbels' Students!"]

[Text] It seems that the philosophy of Goebbels, professor and philosopher of Nazi propaganda during World War II, who used to say lie and lie until people believe you, has been adopted by the Israeli propaganda organs despite the fact that that philosophy no longer exists in the civilized world. It also seems that those drafting plans for these organs are novices in the art of the now defunct philosophy. Their latest creation was their lie that Jordan intends to change the Jordanian dinar into a pound. This lie is in itself ridiculous and a typical example of intense hostility the Israeli aggressors harbor against Jordan. There are good reasons for this Israeli hostility:

—Jordan has refused to succumb to partial and unilateral solutions at a time when the tendency to embrace such solutions was coming to a head.
—Jordan has foiled Shultz' maneuvers to obliterate and liquidate the Palestine question.
—Jordan has consecrated the Palestinian identity and responded to the Arab desire to sever links with the West Bank.
—Jordan has been in the forefront of countries which recognized the declaration of the independent Palestinian state.
—Jordan was first to defend the Palestinian intifadah [uprising] in the international arena, and to refute allegations accusing the intifadah of terrorism.
—Jordan was and continues to be at the head of states calling for an international conference. It managed to rally further supporters for such a conference in Europe and the world at large.
—Jordan was the first to expose the real dimensions of Shamir's plan, and showed this plan does not meet the peace requirements and is intended to waste time and end the intifadah.
—Jordan consolidated the foundations of Arab accord and reconciliation at the Amman summit. It has made a serious contribution to developing pan-Arab cooperation through the establishment of the Arab Cooperation Council.

All these reasons account for the intense Israeli hostility against Jordan, the suspect pressures on the Jordanian economy, and the fierce pychological war by Goebbels' students who plan and conduct Israeli propaganda, including their latest lie about the dinar.

As lies bear no fruit, it is certain that this lie will elicit only contempt and will evaporate like soap bubbles as previous ones have. As King Husayn has said time and again, Jordan will never bow to anyone because we only bow to God. With God's will and might, Jordan will remain the rock on which the dreams and ambitions of aggressive conspirators will founder. Jordan will continue to carry the banner of the Great Arab Revolt and abide by the pan-Arab line. Our one cohesive family will continue to be alert to the aggressors' deception and will not be weakened by their lies no matter how well fabricated and circulated. As always, we have not and will not relinquish any of our rights. Jordan will continue its pan-Arab struggle for the sake of the Palestine cause and for the sake of building a pan-Arab structure that preserves the Arab nation's existence and dignity—much to the dislike of Israel and its tools among Goebbels' students who still adhere to the lies of his defunct philosophy.

King Husayn Addresses European Atlantic Group

JN2207090089 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 22 Jul 89 p 4

["Full text" of address by King Husayn to the European Atlantic Group in London on 20 July]

[Text] Mr. President, My Lords, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to be with you today, to share some thoughts on the subject of an independent Palestinian state. Such a state must be an essential component of any peace settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict, because peace can only endure if it is based on justice for all concerned parties.

So much has been said and written about this subject that it has become difficult, at times, to distinguish fact from political polemics. Israel and pro-Israeli groups in the West try to promote the image of a Palestineian state as a mortal danger to its neighbours. Some groups still maintain the illusion that Palestine and the national Palestinian identity do not exist. Others suggest that Jordan is Palestine, or that the Palestinian problem is a refugee rather than a national problem, that could be solved by programmes of relocation and assimilation into the broader Arab World.

Today, I would like to share with you my thoughts on why an independent Palestinian state is essential to peace and stability in the Middle East.

When my great grandfather al-Sharif Husayn 'Ibn-'Ali led the Great Arab Revolt in the second decade of this century, he reflected the political ideology and popular

sentiments of the first stirrings of Arab nationalism. The revolt was an expression of Arab aspirations for independence, unity, and progress. The prevalent political climate, and the great powers of the day, prevented the achievement of these universally-held nationalist objectives. Instead, the Arab World was divided into a number of nation states, with the encouragement of the great powers.

Yet, aspirations for Arab unity remained very much alive. The next years would witness a series of attempts to forge larger entities—trans-national, pan-Arab groupings that would give practical expression to the grassroots will for a single Arab Nation. These early attempts failed; some because they ran against the wishes of the dominant powers, others because they did not address fully the complexities of forging a single national entity from a number of smaller states with functioning institutional structures.

Similar to the European model, sub-regional groupings of states have been formed to promote economic and institutional complementarity as a precursor of political unity.

Similarly, Palestinian nationalism emerged in the early decades of this century as a pan-Arab movement. In 1950, it was given concrete expression in unity with Jordan, which was successful until 1967. The combination of the prolonged Israeli occupation of the West Bank, and the emergent state-nationalism in many Arab countries led the Palestinians to claim an independent state of their own on their national soil. Now, and in keeping with the new orientation towards sub-regional groups in the Arab World, the Palestinian objective has become an independent state in confederation with Jordan.

When the Palestinians sought unity with Jordan after the 1948 Arab-Israeli war, they expressed both their yearning for Arab unity and their recognition of the Jordanian Army's feat in salvaging the West Bank. Their request was expressed both in public rallies, and through delegations to my late grandfather, King 'Abdallah 'Ibn-al-Husayn. King 'Abdallah cherished the union as a tangible step towards the goal of Arab unity. It echoed both the historic message of the Great Arab Revolt, and the contemporary political ethos of Jordan. Hence, he instigated the constitutional process that culminated in the act of unity of 1950. The act, which was ratified by a Jordanian Parliament, democratically elected in equal numbers from the East and West Banks, committed the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan "to affirm the safeguarding of all Arab rights in Palestine, and the defence of those rights through all legitimate means, and to fulfill those rights completely and not to prejudice a final solution, within the framework of national aspirations, Arab co- operation, and international justice of the just cause of Palestine."

Though the West Bank fell under Israeli military occupation in 1967, legally it remained Jordanian territory, and the West Bankers remained Jordanian citizens. In the seventies, they began to express a more distinct brand of Palestinian nationalism, for several reasons: their prolonged physical separation from the East Bank, their harsh plight under occupation, and the evolvement of state nationalism in the Arab World.

Recognising this fact, and in fulfillment of our constitutional pledge to defend Palestinian rights and not to prejudice a final solution of the Palestinian issue, Jordan offered the United Arab Kingdom proposal in 1972. We presented three options for regulating Jordanian- Palestinian relations after the withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories:

(1) Return to unity as before the Israeli occupation;

(2) Full independence; and

(3) Federation between the two banks of the Jordan.

At that time we favoured federation as the most appropriate expression of our mutual commitment to the principles of Arab unity and Palestinian rights. It satisfied the reality of Palestinian national identity while maintaining the constructive bonds between the East and West Banks. Unfortunately, the proposal was turned down by Israel, Egypt, and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

When the Rabat Arab Summit of 1974 designated the PLO as the sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people, it also requested Jordan to continue representing Palestinian interests in the West Bank. We agreed to do so because we feared that disengaging from the West Bank, then, would have created a political vacuum. Israel would have exploited the situation to support its claim that there was nobody entitled to sovereignty over the West Bank, and proceeded to annex it.

In 1982, the Fes Arab Summit declared that the objective of the peace process was to establish an independent Palestinian state. The situation that resulted could only be characterised by imprecision and ambiguity. Jordan was expected to represent Palestinian interests, but not Palestinians, with no definition of the extent or limits of this representation. Consequently, all our efforts to coordinate a joint peace strategy with the PLO met with Palestinian scepticism and suspicion, and, ironically, with outright Israeli rejection. The PLO feared that Jordan sought to impose its hegemony on the West Bank. Israeli rejectionism was based on the claim that Jordan did not represent the Palestinians.

For some twenty years, our attempts to promote a genuine and meaningful peace process on the basis of United Nations Security Council Resolution 242, encountered the major obstacle, that Israel was using the Jordanian option purely as a delaying tactic. In reality, Israel sought to solve the Palestinian problem either by means of the "transfer plan," of forcibly pushing the

Palestinians across the river, into Jordan; or by its peculiar interpretation of the "autonomy plan," which would designate them alien residents. We had reached an impasse which could only be broken by dismissing the Jordanian option.

At this critical moment, the Palestinian national uprising, the intifadah, started, in December 1987. The intifadah set many things right: It focussed attention on the essential human component and political core of the Palestinian struggle; it dramatically reaffirmed the national identity of the Palestinian people in the occupied territories—a people deeply tied to the Palestinian earth that is their physical patrimony, proud of their cultural identity, aware of their political rights, and fearlessly resisting occupation to achieve their national rights. Nobody could possibly claim that Palestine is a land without people.

Moreover, the intifadah affirmed the organic relationship between the Palestinians in Palestine, and the PLO leadership in exile. Day after day, the Palestinians in the occupied territories defy the inhuman and arbitrary penalties meted on them by Israel for asserting their allegiance to the PLO as their sole legitimate representative. The PLO has transcended the narrow role of formal political representation to become the expression of a national identity and a national will. This is what Mr. Yasir 'Arafat means when he says that every Palestinian in the occupied territories is a member of the PLO.

We wanted to seize the moment to advance the peace process, but the experience of the previous six years had made it clear that, under prevailing conditions, the PLO would not enter into the peace process in partnership with Jordan. We needed to allay the PLO's suspicions of Jordan's motives, and we needed to disabuse Israel of the misconception that it could solve the Palestinian problem on Jordanian soil or through an extra-territorial Jordanian legal and administrative framework.

To achieve these objectives, Jordan decided in the eighth month of the intifadah to sever its administrative and legal links with the West Bank. The disengagement had instant and positive results: It sharply re-focussed world attention on the Palestinian-Israeli struggle as the heart of the broader Arab-Israeli conflict; it also prompted the PLO to leave the confines of ideological puritanism and enter the realm of political realism.

For the first time, the PLO began to deal with the Palestinian national cause on the basis of international and regional realities. This transformation is embodied by its acceptance of the two-state formula, which the world had accepted in 1947, even before Great Britain had withdrawn from Palestine, in the form of United Nations Resolution 181.

The bold new clarity in the PLO's political programme freed it from the legacy of the national Palestinian charter. The total liberation of Palestine, and the objective of a single Palestinian state in all of mandated Palestine is no longer envisaged. The objective has become a Palestinian state in part of Palestine; in other words, in all the territories occupied in June of 1967, the subject addressed by Security Council Resolution 242.

Mr. Yasir 'Arafat made this clear in the Palestinian National Council meeting in Algiers, in his address to the United Nations General Assembly in Geneva, and in subsequent statements. He also made it clear that the Palestinains want an indepdnent state on their national soil, with all the legal rights and attributes of national sovereignty that are enjoyed by Israel and all other states of the world. Moreover, this new outlook was bolstered by the unanimous endorsement of the Arab World in the recent Casablanca summit.

The Palestinians and the Arab World have made a historic compromise—to concede geography, but not quality of national rights. The PLO has now met all the prerequisites and requirements to achieve peaceful settlement of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, in line with international legitimacy, and global consensus.

We believe that Europe identified correctly the political imperative of our region when it stated, in the Venice Declaration, that the "Palestinian People must be placed in a position, by an appropriate process, defined within the framework of the comprehensive peace settlement, to exercise fully its right to self-determination." We also believe that the Palestinians have articulated clearly their legitimate demand for a state of their own, on their national soil, living in peace with its neighbours.

The own remaining obstacle to a just peace is Israel's inability to reach a decision on the future of the Arab territories that it has occupied by force for twenty two years.

Israel is governed by a coalition of the two largest political alliances in the country; but this coalition is based on the lowest common denominator of political consensus. Its ability to act falls far short of what is required of it to react positively to new opportunities in the region.

For instance, Israeli leaders agree on the need to end the intifadah, but they differ on what they might offer in return. The Israeli prime minister's proposal for elections in the occupied territories is carefully formulated so as to end the intifadah without providing any tangible guarantees of subsequent progress towards a permanent peace settlement.

To hold elections without a prior Israeli acceptance, in principle, of the applicability of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 to the occupied territories, as they were applied to Sinai, would be to engage in a process of

considerable apparent motion, without substantive progess. A peace process that does not lead to the full exercise of Palestinian national self-determination will only exchange one deadlock for another. And yet, Israel persists in its rejection of moves towards a negotiated peace based on the concept of Palestinian sef-determination alongside the state of Israel.

The Israeli claim that a Palestinian state would present a mortal threat to itself and to Jordan is a sad manifestation of Israel's dilemma—unwilling to accept world consensus, and fearing the isolation that would result from being the only nation to reject it. The security and well-being of Jordan and all states in the region, including Israel, can only be safeguarded by a comprehensive peace settlement that includes the just and permanent resolution of all aspects of the Palestine issue—an issue of a people who demand, and should exercise, their right of national self-determination on their ancestral soil. Israel's withdrawal from the occupied territories and Palestinian self-determination are the essential components of a just and permanent peace settlement.

Israel's obdurate and rejectionist attitude is not new. What is new, though, is the questioning and soul-searching which the intifadah has spawned among Israeli writers, journalists, academics, and even some politicians. They wonder about the furture of Israel: Will it be safe? Will it maintain the ideals of the early Zionists and founders of the state? Will it become a bi-national Jewish/Arab state? How long can it deny the Palestinians the right of self-determination which it claims for its people? What is the true economic, psychological, moral, and political cost of perpetual military occupation? What possibilities can be envisaged for a long-term peaceful relations now under Israeli occupation?

It is heartening that after 41 years of statehood, the Israelis are asking questions about the fundamental relationship between Israelis and Arabs. Such questions have caused deep rifts in the Israeli polity, even within the major parties. Israel is starting to strain under the pressure of the realisation that it cannot be a secure state unless it allows the Palestinians to enjoy their own state in Palestine. The message should be clear: the Palestinian nation struggles to assert itself, to manifest its destiny, to exercise its political rights, and to protect its people within the security of a sovereign state. It is a message that should ring familiar to Israeli and Jewish ears. If peace and justice are to be achieved, Israel must make a historic decision to accept the two-state solution in the land of mandated Palestine.

The opportunity is there, but is also has a political and psychological time-frame. It is not open-ended. It must be seized, nurtured, and translated into a genuine peace process. Otherwise, forces of frustration and extremism will prevail once again.

For years, Israeli leaders successfully diffused external pressures to face the Palestinian reality. Today, however, the pressures are greater because they spring from within.

The role of Israel's friends in the world is to convince Isreali people and leaders that this is the moment to respond to Palestinian and Arab overtures; that they have to answer the questions: will they accept land-for-peace? Will they accept Palestinian self-determination? If they do, the road to the peace conference will be open.

Paris Club Agrees to Debt Rescheduling

JN2207192489 Amman Television Service in English 1900 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] The Council of Ministers met this evening and was briefed on the outcome of talks held recently with the Paris Club of creditors on rescheduling Jordan's foreign debts. The finance minister, Mr Basil Jardanah, told the ministers that agreement was reached at the talks to reschedule the loans for 10 to 11 years with a grace period of between 5 and 6 years.

The finance minister and the governor of the Central Bank, Mr Muhammad Sa'id al-Nabulsi, will hold a press conference on Monday to review the results of the Paris talks.

Official Denies Gold Reserves Mortgaged

NC2107093389 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic 17 Jul 89 p 1

[Text] Amman (Exclusive to AL-QUDS correspondent)—A senior Jordanian official has denied reports that the remaining gold reserves in the Central Bank of Jordan totaling 900,000 ounces have been mortaged for foreign currencies. He said that certain Arab countries have promised to pay sums in foreign currencies that exceed the treasury's needs. He, however, declined to specify the expected sums or to name these countries.

Sudanese Interior Minister Arrives 23 Jul

JN2307172489 Amman Domestic Service in English 1600 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] The Sudanese interior minister, Brigadier Faysal Abu-Salih, member of the Salvation Revolutionary High Command Council, arrived in Amman this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Jordan. Abu-Salih said he carries a written message for His Majesty the King from General 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese Revolutionary Command Council.

Abu-Salih will meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan, the regent; Premier al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir; and a number of high-ranking officials.

He said he carries for Prince Hasan, the Jordanian Government, and people appreciation of the Sudanese people for the Kingdom's support and assistance to them.

Received by Prince Hasan

JN2307202689 Amman Television Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Crown Prince Hasan, the regent, received Staff Brigadier General Faysal Abu-Salih, member of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council and interior minister, at the Royal Hashemite Court tonight. The minister handed him a message addressed to His Majesty King Husayn from Staff General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council.

The Sudanese envoy explained the revolution's objectives as represented in rescuing Sudan and solving the problems that accumulated over the past few years with the aim of regaining stability in Sudan in order to continue the march of development and progress. The envoy affirmed to His Highness that the fraternal Sudanese people have responded to the Sudanese leadership. He also conveyed to his highness the gratitude of the Sudanese leadership and people for Jordan's stand in support of Sudan.

The regent affirmed to the Sudanese envoy Jordan's constant stand in support of Sudan on the basis of its brotherly concern for Sudan and its people. His highness expressed Jordan's sympathy with the objectives of the Sudanese national salvation revolution and the efforts to rescue the Sudanese people.

The interview was attended by the prime minister, the chief of the Royal Hashemite Court, His Majesty the king's political adviser, His Majesty the king's adviser, the deputy prime minister and interior minister, and the deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Staff Brig Gen Faysal Abu-Salih arrived in Amman this afternoon on a 2-day visit to Jordan. In a statement to PETRA-JNA on his arrival, he said he is carrying a message from Staff Gen 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council, addressed to His Majesty King Husayn. He added that he is also carrying for His Highness Prince Hasan and the people and Government of Jordan the greetings, appreciation, and gratitude of the Sudanese Government and people for the support and assistance extended by Jordan to the Sudanese people.

Brig Gen Abu-Salih expressed his conviction that Sudan is capable of overcoming all difficulties with the efforts of the Sudanese people and support of the Arab nation.

In reply to a question on the problem of the south, he said the new Sudanese leadership does not have any preconditions for resolving the problem, expressing hope that the problem will be resolved through direct dialogue.

Brig Gen Abu-Salih is accompanied by a delegation comprising Staff Colonel Bakr Hasan Salih, member of the Revolution Command Council, and a number of senior military officials of the Revolution Command Council. He was received at Amman airport by Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, the Foreign Ministry secretary general, the Governor of Amman, and the Sudanese ambassador in Amman.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Concludes Visit, Departs

JN2107122289 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Amman—Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today left Amman following a 3-day visit to Jordan during which he participated in the meetings of the foreign ministers of the Arab Cooperation Council [ACC] member states. He also met with His Highness Crown Prince Hasan—the regent—and Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir.

He was seen off at the airport by Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; the Foreign Ministry secretary general; the ACC secretary general; and the Iraqi ambassador in Amman.

Editorial on Israeli Cabinet Endorsement of Plan

JN2407092889 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 24 Jul 89 pp 1, 15

[Editorial: "An Exposed Israeli Maneuver"]

[Text] The two wings of the Israeli Government resolved their alleged differences over the proposed plan for elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip very quickly, thus ending an unsubtle political maneuver, which was basically aimed at obstructing or diverting the international peace efforts from the aspired peace track.

It is not clear whether the Israeli cabinet's reendorsement of the election plan has ended the party and personal rivalries inside the wing of the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhaq Shamir.

However, it is clear that the peace process has gained no momentum by this vote, despite the possible praise the United States may give to what it calls the approved Israeli peace plan.

Even if we agree that the Shamir government's reapproval of the plan has removed the stringent conditions imposed by the Likud on the plan, the election process itself still seems far away, if not impossible in light of the continued Israeli maneuvers on the one hand and the U.S. diplomatic maneuvers on the other.

It was hoped that following the recent Likud conference Washington would reach the appropriate political conclusions in order to reformulate its stand on the current situation in the Middle East. However, the U.S. diplomacy worked behind the scenes as an attorney for Yitzhaq Shamir himself to restore cohesion to the Israeli Government, and thus to guarantee the indefinite continuation of the election maneuver.

The Israeli Government's adoption of the proposed election plan in its original formula cannot constitute a practical contribution to the Middle East peace efforts, especially since that fumbling plan, which is engulfed by Israeli domestic maneuvers, is still vague and lacks sufficient seriousness. It has no chance of success in the future as long as it is aimed at obstructing the real peace efforts and gaining further time to terminate the valiant Palestinian popular intifadah [uprising].

Deputy Prime Minister Views Elections, Charter

JN2007095389 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 20 Jul 89 p 6

[By Malak al-Tal]

[Text] Salim Masa'idah, deputy prime minister and interior minister, has stressed that the parliamentary elections will be held at the agreed upon date—namely, before the end of the current year—and that, consequently, there is no justification for groundless speculation or rumors about a possible postponement of these elections.

In a statement to both AL-DUSTUR and the Kuwaiti paper AL-SIYASAH, Masa'idah said it is difficult to predict the composition of the next House of Representatives, but hope and an appreciation of the Jordanian citizens' awareness cause us to believe that the next house will enjoy a great deal of responsibility and objectivity in so far as comprehending the circumstances and pushing the Jordanian march for the better are concerned. Guessing that this house might be dissolved is, therefore, invalid. It is no secret that our circumstances are difficult and that we are overcoming one-upmanship. Therefore, we should not ask the imposiible from any government; our demands should be within our capabilities and resources.

Masa'idah said talk about a second parliamentary election 2 years after the election of the next parliament involves something that cannot be foreseen and is governed by a host of objective considerations that are impossible to talk about, predict, or deal with at the present time. The reports that have been published on this matter, he said, are merely speculation and a reading of a future that only God knows.

Told that a whole generation (22 years) has passed since the last parliamentary elections were held and that this could mean Jordanian voters might be out of touch with the norms, regulations, and manners governing the atmosphere of elections, the deputy prime minister and interior minister said the most recent elections were held in the beginning of 1967. He added: After the occupation of the West Bank and the vacation of its seats in the House of Representatives, it was natural for parliamentary elections to be obstructed. Throughout this period, however, Jordan was keen on finding an alternative formula or on stressing the need for holding elections under a formula appropriate to the existing extraordinary situation with half the seats vacant.

There were attempts to amend the Constitution. By-elections were held in some occassions, and the Constitution gave the winners the right to represent the West Bank. Jordan has always shown concern about the exercise of parliamentary life, but due to circumstances, it was not able to exercise it in its real form. There were attempts to devise alternative formulas for the House of Representatives, and thus the National Consultative Council was formed. The council, which lasted for several years, represented a kind of popular participation, although not the optimal participation.

All this was ended by the issuance of the political decision disengaging administrative and legal ties with the West Bank, which made it possible for the East Bank to resume its parliamentary life. Elections must therefore be held, and this has been announced and underlined since the formation of this government.

Masa'idah added: The long period of time separating us from the 1967 elections calls on us to develop and mobilize awareness of the traditions and mores of this activity, which the citizens have not practiced for some time. Those who are now in their forties or younger have never practiced this right except during by-elections, which took place many years ago. Therefore, the responsibility is now doubled to guide the citizens and to deal with them in a direct and continuous manner so that they will realize the importance of practicing the right to vote. We must announce to them and strengthen their belief that practicing the right to cast his vote is a principal issue in the life of the country. The subject now goes beyond mere slogans. It is no secret that in all countries of the world there are some who feel it is easy to present things and slogans theoretically. But, when things are put in their proper contexts—as it is the case now when the citizens practice the right to vote—the responsibility becomes lively and direct. Every citizen must place before his eyes the stability of this country and its continued growth and prosperity, as we all hope.

The deputy prime minister and interior minister asserted that one of the most prominent results of the disengagemnet decision was to highlight the Palestinian identity, according to a full Jordanian belief in the need to preserve and take care of the Palestinian identity by both the Jordanian and Palestinian sides. It is historically known that the Jordanian entity was based on pluralism, an example considered as one of the bases of the strength of this country.

Masa'idah added: There are citize
gin in Jordan. There are also citizns of Palestinian ori- and Hijazi citizens of Syrian, Iraqi, equal in rights and duties. Highlgv, they are all citizens the Palestinian identity does not ghting and protecting citizenship. The responsibility of contradict Jordanian zen—no matter what his origin or f every Jordanian citi- regime's efforts, which aim to highlfamily—is to back the Palestinian identity and to keep light and advance the attraction for the benefit of the Pal it a source of clear lestine question.

He added: Regarding camps, these
ments are certainly alive for the feelings and commit- Jordanian citizens who are aware ofem, as they are for Palestine question. These feelings as and interested in the of the commitments and interestsare the first expression with the greatest degree of awars that everybody has country, its stability, and prosperityreness to build this the sanctuary for all on an equal bay in the belief that it is asis.

Masa'idah said: The issue of the
longer discussed and dealt with on camps' rights is no are camps. They are like other popun the basis that these country that can practice that rightbulation centers in the single constituency. Naturally, and it [to vote] within the other population center, there will l as is the case in any will demonstrate themselves in the l be many trends that natural expectation can be built the elections. Hence the express their desires in elections nohat these centers will as diverse elements that are governeot as a single bloc but tations seeking to preserve the existed finally by interpre- of this country. stence and prosperity

The minister noted that any extern
tions of the election results and the final political explana- parliament will be left to the imagi formation of the next media and people. For our part, wination of the foreign light of the consideration that the cawe view this issue in of the camps are just like those candidates and voters centers—namely, Jordanian citizens in any population to run for office with the same opps who have the right fair and free election. portunity to win in a

In connection with the recent events
towns and the possibility that unis in certain Jordanian formulas or groupings might appeanusual parliamentary circles speculate, the deputy prime mar, as certain foreign recents events were a passing, spont minister said that the that developed because of the cintaneous phenomenon which we have been passing. Howercumstances through brought relief to us is that people ever, the change that that citizens should rise above these e have become aware The fact is that we have limited rese emotional reactions. deal with and and live within thesesources that we must allow sheer emotions to expose ouse limits. We will not God forbid. We will not allow our cour country to danger, stability to be endangered. I think country's security and now prepared to bear difficulties to sk that the people are of danger. o steer the country out

The minister added that despite the continuation of some of the causes, there have been noticeable changes recently. Everyone in the country, especially officials led by His Majesty King Husayn, are working to bypass the difficult circumstances and are devoting all their efforts toward this end. The prevalence of these sentiments among the citizens in all areas are in my opinion a guarantee steering the country away from danger.

Masa'idah added that it is very difficult to predict the way in which parliament will behave toward the economic and administrative conditions. The Constitution guarantees each deputy the right to question the government on everything, whether in the past or future throughout the government's tenure in office, and even on matters during past stages or in connection with future governmental plans.

The minister thinks that the citizens' awareness will govern their outlook in the future. This awareness will prevent them from being captives of the past except in cases in which the country's march and development plans could be served. Therefore, a kind of revision may be conducted. Measures have been taken within limits that can serve the future plans of this country. These are personal evaluations concerning the coming parliament.

Regarding the national charter, which will be presented for discussion and will include licensing political organizations, the deputy prime minister and interior minister said: Governments always prepare programs and execute them under the supervision of parliament, which has the right to intervene and make certain demands. The principal right of parliament is to support, or not to support, that government in future measures. This goes for any parliament and any government, and this is governed by articles of the Constitution. In this regard—and as was announced by His Majesty King Husayn on more than one occasion—we are heading toward the formulation of a national charter. I believe such a charter will be presented to the people through the House of Representatives, which will approve, amend, or change it in a manner compatible with with the direction of legislative power. I expect it to result in the emergence of future political and economic formulas. I believe that the allowed organization is the licensed organization; we have absolutely no licensed political organizations as such in Jordan. The charter will certainly produce political organizations. It will include articles for political organization and frameworks, and work will begin on its basis. In its general form, it will be within the framework of the Constitution, although it will include details that the Constitution does not.

Masa'idah continues: In my assessment, it will produce political organizations that are in harmony with the charter. This is only an assessment and a natural result, although no memos or applications in this regard have been submitted to the present government.

Regarding Jordanian citizens who hold yellow cards and have family reunions with the kinfolk in the occupied territory, Masa'idah said: According to the Constitution, this group of people are considered citizens who have full rights and responsibilities. But, some of them who suffer from the inability to renew their yellow cards inside the occupied territory out of fear that they will be prevented from leaving by the Israeli authorities. The failure to renew their cards results in delaying their daily governmental paperwork.

The deputy prime minister said: It is correct to present the issue in this sequence. However, there is another very important side to the subject. Any holder of a yellow card is a Jordanian citizen before and after the disengagement decision. He carries a permit from the enemy to return to the occupied territories under certain conditions. He has to renew the permit before the expiration of its 3-year validity. This means that he has to cross the [Jordan River] bridge to obtain a permit valid for an additional period of time. From our experience with the enemy, this is because the expiration of the permit means that person will lose his right to return.

The minister noted that the important thing is that the citizen who carries a yellow card should be more eager than we are to renew his card because if the card expires without having been renewed it will not be possible for him to return to the West Bank or the occupied territory. Large numbers of them have forfeited this right, and others have gone to court through West Bank lawyers to renew their cards.

Masa'idah noted that the government would like for this citizen to renew his card before its expiration, so we grant him a period of 1 or 2 months before the expiration to renew his card, and we begin to sound him out on this issue. If we locate any paperwork for him, we stop it to pressure him or remind him of his case. We do not do this to him because we regard him as persona non grata because we are as eager as he is for his card to be renewed. We do not want him to lose his right to return. This is much more important than the difficulties he is putting up with and which we feel. We and this citizen oppose enemy measures. Our silence and toleration in this issue might rob him of the right to return, something that affects the Palestinian cause more than anything else. If he responds to our pressure and renews his card, he will be appreciated and cared for by all officials just like any other citizen.

The minister endorsed the view that the difficult economic conditions and the passing hardships in supplies can affect the security issue in general and said: This issue is one for the Supply or Interior Ministries alone but it is the permenent problem for the government. We are aware that the the cost of living is higher and that theoretically this jump requires a larger income for the citizen to maintain his standard of living. It is a vicious circle.

The minister reiterated that our resources in Jordan are limited and we as citizens and officials must bear the brunt of this fact. It is an unconfortable fact, but we have to put up with it. He said: In my estimate, the government will not be able to raise salaries in the foreseable future because of lack of funds. Therefore, all of us must cooperate to bypass this difficult phase. If the government's plan requires commitment to harsh measures, it will be the duty of the Interior Ministry to implement these measures. If it transpires that there are activities in the market to realize profits by devious means or by robbing society, we will consider such profit illegal because it is based on exploiting the citizens. This is unacceptable.

Paper Views Syrian-Iranian 'Game' in Country

JN2307192889 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 22 Jul 89 p 2

["Exclusive" from Beirut]

[Text] An Arab diplomatic source has affirmed that Iran is playing a dangerous game and that Syria supports this destructive game to justify its occupation of Lebanese territories. IRNA had said that Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati met with a number of officials from Lebanese parties and Palestinian organizations and called for setting up a national front to confront the Maronite forces in Lebanon.

The statement issued by the conferees was signed by Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement; Shaykh Subhi al-Tuyfayli, representative of the Hizballah Party; Khalil Ahmad, representative of Walid Junblatt; Ahmad Jibril, secretary general of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command; and Colonel Abu-Musa [Sa'id Musa Muragha], who broke away from the Palestinian organizations.

The statement also pledged allegiance to 'Ali Khamene'i as president of Iran and attacked the tripartite Arab committee set up by the Casablanca summit to exert its good offices to end the Lebanese problem.

Arab circles in Cairo condemned the statement and affirmed that the call for that meeting came only 1 week after Velayati's visit to Damascus and his meeting with Syrian officials and pro-Syrian Lebanese leaders. They also said that response by some Lebanese sides cast doubts about them, especially since the statement encouraged opponents of 'Arafat and the legitimate PLO leadership and called for further split. This asserts that Syria and Iran are playing the game jointly.

These sources also said that the statement allowed Syria to avert its commitments to the Arab summit regarding Lebanon under the pretext that the Lebanese sides have signed the statement. Syria also sees in it a justification for its presence in Lenanon, as it is not the only side in Lebanon and as Iran is also there. By this, Syria intends to compel the Arab sides to hold a dialogue with Iran on the Lebanese problem.

These sources also said that the statement allowed Syria to get rid of the Arab pressure, especially the Saudi pressure. This prompted the custodian of the two holy mosques to postpone his visit to Washington after the disclosure of the Syrian plan to hamper the tripartite committee's mission by imposing preconditions or stepping up battles in Lebanon.

Iranian Officials on Relations

NC2207114589 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Following the recent Tehran statement, Iran today emphasized its good relations with the Islamic and nationalist forces in Lebanon.

Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati has said that cooperation with Syria will continue to confront what he termed the reactionaries in the region. He expressed his country's readiness to extend all forms of aid to Lebanon and to contribute to solving the citizen's daily problems.

Meanwhile, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam has noted a shift in Iran's relations with the Lebanese parties after the Tehran meetings.

In an interview with AL-SAFIR newspaper, he said this was aimed at resolving the differences between Islamic and nationalist forces in order to unify the ranks in confronting Israel and achieving the rights of the Lebanese people.

Results of Tehran Meetings

NC2207192889 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Our radio team in Tehran has reported that during the meetings held among the nationalist and Islamic Lebanese and Palestinian leaders in Tehran, an agreement was reached to set up a follow-up committee to oversee relations among the nationalist and Islamic parties and the Palestinian factions with a view to forming a unified Lebanese front. This front intends to topple the sectarian regime, to build a new regime on the basis of antagonism toward Israel, to abrogate political sectarianism, and to set up a unified Palestinian front to back the intifadah [uprising].

Regarding the relations between Amal and Hizballah, an agreement was reached to form a follow-up committee in order to implement the Damascus agreements' provisions. It was also agreed to establish a higher coordination committee and a tribunal that will examine any dispute or disagreement between the two parties and decide on punishments for the violators. It was emphasized that measures had been taken to prevent any setback in Amal-Hizballah relations. There was constant agreement between the Islamic Republic and the Amal Movement as well as limited support [da'm mahdud] for the movement. However, this support will not be at the expense of Iran's relationship with Hizballah.

Our radio team in Tehran has also reported that Iranian revolution guide Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i stressed to the Lebanese nationalist forces that Lebanon is passing through the most delicate phases of its history in the face of the onslaught of Israel and its supporters. He called on the nationalist and progressive forces, which had fought

against Israel and NATO, to achieve further unity. He noted that the enemies' scheme to seek the disintegration of these forces, since their unity guarantees victory. He underlined the need to set differences aside and to concentrate on the many things in common.

At the Palestinian level, Khamene'i declared that the Islamic Republic will devote all its capabilities to Palestine. He emphasized that the Iranian leadership's decision to back the forces that are determined to eradicate the Zionist entity and are opposed to the suspicious solutions will materialize in practical action. He stressed the need for the nationalist and Islamic forces to build a unified patriotic front to liberate Palestine and to foil the conspiracies of those scheming against it. He noted that for Iran the liberation of Palestine is not just a political task or a belief in a just cause but an indisputably sacred religious duty.

Our team in Tehran quoted Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati as saying that the invitation of nationalist Lebanese and Palestinian forces to Tehran was not just a matter of participation in the ceremony marking the 40-day anniversary of the death of Imam Khomeyni. Instead, it reflected a decision and inclination to promote the ties with these forces collectively and with each of them separately. Velayati affirmed that Lebanon and Palestine are two axes whose destiny will determine the future of the region. He noted that Tehran attaches importance to the unity of the nationalist and Islamic forces in these two arenas in order to organize the confrontation and mobilize the ranks, noting this topic is the subject of a Syrian-Iranian agreement.

Tanker Damaged; 6 Killed in Shelling 23 Jul

NC2307153889 Paris AFP in English 1230 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Beirut, July 23 (AFP)—Syrian shells killed six civilians Sunday in Christian regions of Lebanon and damaged an approaching Greek gasoline tanker, police said.

Lebanese Army units loyal to the Christian government of General Michel 'Awn meanwhile battled Syrian troops and Druze militiamen southeast of Beirut, as residents continued to flee the capital.

The tanker "Peter Argo" was trying to break Syria's four-month blockade of Christian ports when it was hit by a shell, shipping officials said.

Fire broke out aboard the tanker, which was carrying 2,000 tonnes of petrol, but it was able to pull back out to sea under its own power, the officials said. [passage omitted]

Gen. 'Awn's troops and the Syrian Army resumed their artillery duel overnight in the Beirut area after a 24-hour lull, and at dawn on the Suq al-Gharb front 10 kilometers (six miles) southeast of the capital.

The shelling killed six civilians and wounded five in the Christian region, including two children and their grandfather who died when a shell destroyed their apartment in the Beirut suburb of al-Hadath, police said. [passage omitted]

Clashes with automatic weapons and rockets broke out Sunday afternoon on the sole crossing between Christian East Beirut and the Muslim West, wounding one pedestrian and leading the Army to close the passage, police said.

The shooting spread panic among motorists waiting on both sides of the Museum crossing, who abandoned their cars and took reuge in neighboring buildings.

7-Man Crew Detained

NC2307171589 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1545 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Excerpts] AFP quoted a maritime source as saying that the Greek tanker "Peter Argo," which was carrying about 2,000 tons of gasoline, was hit by shellfire while about 10 km from the coast of the eastern area. [passage omitted]

According to information received by Radio Free Lebanon, the tanker was led last night by the Syrian forces which shelled it to the Sil'ata coast where the Syrians detained the seven crew members, among whom were two Lebanese, and led them to the Syrian intelligence center in Tripoli.

Syrians Reportedly Evacuate Positions in Zahlah

NC2407101289 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0945 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] According to people arriving from al-Biqa', the Syrian occupation troops evacuated several positions in Zahlah, and withdrew troops in the direction of the Ba'labakk-al-Hirmil area during the past few days. The reasons have not been clarified.

Jubayl, Kasrawan Coasts Shelled 23 Jul

NC2307215189 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 2115 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] The Syrians have been shelling the Jubayl and Kasrawan coasts and the residential neighborhoods along the coast from their artillery emplacements in the north since 2225 today. Some shells fell in the central Jubayl area. The shelling was still continuing intermittently as we entered the studio.

Intermittent clashes involving automatic weapons and rockets are also taking place on the confrontation lines in Beirut, particularly on the Primo, Sodeco, and al-Barjawi fronts.

Some bursts of machine gun fire were directed at Lebanese Army positions on the Qasqas, al-Tayyunah, and the Museum lines.

'Text' of Anniversary Message to Shevardnadze

JN2207062589 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 22 Jul 89

["Text" of message from Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' to Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze on the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Syria and the Soviet Union; date not given]

[Text] On the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Syrian Arab Republic and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, I am pleased to send you the most sincere greetings and heartiest wishes affirming my full confidence that the relations of friendship and cooperation which have been entrenched between our two countries over the past years, will be promoted constantly to serve fruitful cooperation and mutual interests between our two peoples.

Syrian-Soviet relations have grown and developed since their establishment. They acquired stability and credibility since the establishment of the corrective movement led by President Hafiz al-Asad. This was crowned by signing the treaty of cooperation and friendship in 1980. The areas and aspects of cooperation between our two countries expanded to include various political, economic, military, educational, scientific, and party fields, including cooperation in the field of space.

On this note, I can only praise the contributions of the Soviet Union in implementing numerous important development projects in our country. All this was to the benefit and development of our two friendly peoples, to the point that relations between our two countries have become a model for fruitful and honest cooperation between countries based on mutual respect, equality, benefit, and joint aspirations to create a world free of weapons of total destruction and where justice, peace, and security prevail.

The fine level of Syrian-Soviet relations calls on us all to feel at ease. At the same time, it affirms our two leaderships' concern to continue developing and promoting fruitful cooperation between our two countries in various fields.

On the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Syria and the Soviet Union, I express once again our appreciation for the support and backing which the Soviet Union gives to our just causes, especially that of finding a just and comprehensive solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict that would bring peace and security to our region and the world.

Al-Asad Congratulates Mubarak on Anniversary

JN2307111089 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1419 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus, 22 Jul (SANA)—His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad has sent a cable of congratulations to Egyptian President Muhammad Husni Mubarak on the 37th anniversary of the 23 July revolution which marked the beginning of the phase during which Syrian-Egyptian unity was forged.

In his cable, President al-Asad extended in his name and on behalf of the Syrian people best wishes and heartfelt congratulations to President Mubarak and to the fraternal Egyptian Arab people and affirmed the depth of the pan-Arab ties linking Syria to Egypt—"ties which have been an asset to our nation throughout history in its confrontation with its enemies."

Al-Shar' Receives Jordanian Senate Member

JN2307124689 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' this morning received Bahjat al-Talhuni, Jordanian Senate member and former speaker of the House of Representatives. Shakir Is'id, head of the People's Assembly Arab and Foreign Affairs Committee, was present. Talks centered on ways to develop bilateral relations between the two countries and the situation in the region.

Editorial on Israeli Intentions Cited

JN2307113589 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Damascus, 23 Jul (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN has affirmed that Israel does not seek peace. In fact, it stands as an obstacle to peace. It wants expansion, aggression, and annexation of the occupied Arab territories.

In its editorial today, the newspaper wonders why some sides insist on polishing the Zionist entity's image and depicting its leaders as having good intentions, despite the fact that these intentions are not at all present. In fact, the opposite intentions are there; that is, the intentions of aggression, war, and destruction which are becoming more and more tangible on the ground every day.

The paper says: If the U.S. Administration had sensed good intentions in Israel, then the exchange of messages would not have taken place and Bush would not have intervened and openly asked U.S. Secretary of State James Baker to abandon the Greater Israel plan.

The paper points out that when Syria used to affirm that Zionism and peace are contradictory issues, that the essence of Zionism is aggression and war, and that there is no alternative before the Arabs other than rallying their resources and potentials, voices used to rise accusing Syria of adopting a hardline stand and not joining the peace march. No, known sides went so far in their compromises as to recognize the enemy beforehand, while the latter refused to recognize any Palestinian representation or right.

The paper concludes: The U.S. warning to Israel does not go beyond advice. The responsibility of confronting the Zionist expansionist plan falls on the Arabs first because Israeli ambitions include the Arab region.

Press Cited on 'Awn Attempts To Foil Peace

JN2407065489 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 24 Jul 89

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "'Awn Has Abandoned His Affiliation With Lebanon," AL-BA'TH says: Beirut's tyrant has removed all masks and exposed his true nature, philosophy, and affiliation. 'Awn proved—without any doubt—that he is the Zionist reserve. He neither regretted the destruction he inflicted on Beirut nor cared about the bloodshed caused by the shells he imported from Baghdad and Israel.

AL-BA'TH adds: Michel 'Awn benefitted from his allies in Baghdad. Saddam, who destroyed Iraq in a war he started because he oppressed the Iraqi people gave the Beirut tyrant the tools to commit the crime. Thus, the two tyrants—Saddam Husayn and Michel 'Awn—cooperated to perform the bloodshed demanded by their well-known subservience to the Zionist scheme. Just as Saddam continued his deadly war, wasting the blood of the Iraqi people, the Beirut tyrant will continue his madness until Beirut becomes as he and Zionism, which failed to subjugate Lebanon, want it to be.

AL-BA'TH says: 'Awn's crime has obstructed all avenues and hopes, particularly since the tyrant aims—through his crime—to foil the continuing Arab efforts to save Lebanon and its people. As Michel 'Awn resorted to his crimes to kill the efforts of the six-man Arab committee, he is now using the same methods to destroy the hopes pinned on the efforts of the tripartite Arab committee. As 'Awn and his ally, Iraq's executioner, know, Lebanon cannot accept a deadly compromise. This people, who defeated the invaders, will not allow a killer to represent them or control their hopes and future.

Under the headline "Lebanon Will Triumph Over the Plotters," TISHRIN says: Whenever efforts are focused on the issue of political reform and national reconciliation in Lebanon, the sedition escalates and 'Awn intensifies his devastating war against the Lebanese and against Arabism, the Arabs, and every effort to achieve national reconciliation in Lebanon.

TISHRIN adds: 'Awn and his clique—through support from the Iraqi regime and Israel—does not seek a solution. 'Awn wants to undermine Lebanon and displace its people; he wants Lebanon to abandon Arabism and attach it to Israel; he wants to turn Lebanon into a hostile base against Syria and its pan-Arab role in the region. It is impossible to subjugate Lebanon before achieving two basic things—moving Syria out of Lebanon or severing Syria's pan-Arab links on the Lebanese issue; and striking at the Lebanese nationalist forces and enabling the agent militias to terrify and displace the citizens after commiting Zionist crimes.

TISHRIN continues: The agents are again wreaking their violence on Beirut and the nationalist areas because Syria and the nationalist Lebanese forces are working together in defense of Lebanon's Arabism and its future, and because it is impossible for any external party to ignore Syria and the nationalist forces. The plot has become exposed; it cannot achieve its goals. The plotters cannot continue on this path forever. The brothers in East Beirut, who are suffering from repression and coercion, will restore their destiny so that all Lebanon will converge again on the basis of reconciliation and Arabism with Syria's fraternal assistance.

TISHRIN Cited on Soviet Support for Arabs

JN2207081089 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0545 GMT 22 Jul 89

[From the Press Review]

[Text] Under the headline "Syria and the Soviet Union: Entrenched, Honest, and Firm Relations" TISHRIN said in its "Behind the News" column:

Syria, which is fully committed and totally faithful to its struggle and pan-Arab principles, sees the development of cooperation and friendship with the Soviet Union as an important element of support for the Arab cause and struggle.

Undoubtedly, the Soviet Union's support for the Arabs' first and central cause—the Palestine question—makes a large contribution and wields great influence toward creating a strong front of friends and allies—on the international level and in all international bodies, organizations, and institutions—to support the Arab struggle against the Zionist enemy and to deter it from implementing its conspiratorial and destructive schemes and its expansionist and terrorist policy.

Syria, which continues the struggle, believes that strengthening the Arab position and maintaining the course of steadfastness and confrontation against the expansionist Zionist aggression is based on expanding the front of those supporting the Arab cause. We must distinguish between friend and enemy in proceeding firmly to thwart the enemy's capitulationist schemes, foil all forms of pressure and blackmail, and deter and confront the enemy's fascist, terrorist, and racist policies.

In all this, mature, firm, and honest relations between Syria and the Soviet Union form a great and important bulwark against the growth of Zionist and imperialist expansion and aggression.

Afghanistan

U.S. Correspondent Released by Najibullah Order

LD2107184189 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Based on an order by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, Tony O'Brien, a citizen of the United States and photojournalist of LIFE magazine who illegally entered the territory of the Republic of Afghanistan and was arrested on 4 June by the security authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan, was released this morning. He was handed over to a representative of the U.S. secretary of state by the deputy-head of consulate affairs of the Afghan Foreign Ministry.

His Excellency Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the State of Palestine, as well as the United States and a number of that country's senators and members of the Congress officially requested the release of this photojournalist from the state of the Republic of Afghanistan.

Further on Release

LD2207070689 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0427 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 21 (BAKHTAR)—Najibullah, president of the Republic of Afghanistan [RA] by taking into consideration the nature of the guilt of Mr. Tony O'Brien, U.S. journalist and on the basis of repeated requests made by different persons and organisations, the appeal by the U.S. Administration as well as on humanitarian grounds, had (?ordered) the release of this U.S. journalist, who had illegally entered into Afghanistan, says a spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan here today.

Earlier, Tony O'Brien with the cooperation of the opposition armed groups had secretly infiltrated into Afghanistan and later was captured by the security organs. During the investigations, it became clear that Mr. O'Brien, a correspondent and a photo-reporter of Time-Life Publishing Organisation has not taken any part in the military operations against the Republic of Afghanistan, added the spokesman.

During the interrogations, he has confessed to his illegal entry into Afghanistan and has appealed to be pardoned. Similarly, the U.S. Administration has officially referred to the Government of Afghanistan requesting his release and has also sent its representative to Afghanistan.

Similarly, several requests have been received here from a number of U.S. congressmen, its TIME and LIFE Magazines and a number of other American and Western news agencies calling for his release. Besides, earlier, Mr. Abu Khalid, a special envoy of Yasir 'Arafat, chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, PLO, separately requested his release.

During the imposed imperialistic war against the RA, a large number of foreign citizens under different names such as doctor, journalist, employee of charity institutions, etc have illegally entered into the Afghan territory and had started secret activities. Till now, a number of such persons have been captured by the security forces and a number of them have been killed during the operation, the spokesman added.

Naturally, the secret and illegal infiltration of such persons is contrary to the internationally accepted norms and is a flagrant violations from the law of the RA, therefore, the government of the RA has the right to punish such persons on their violations from the law of country as well as international laws, the spokesman went on.

Upon his release, the Afghan authorities have expressed hope that the U.S. Administration should bring to the attention of its citizens the dangers of their illegal penetration to the territory of Afghanistan.

As far as the government of the Republic of Afghanistan is concerned, foreign journalists are legally allowed for legitimate and lawful activities inside the country. The government provides all-sided facilities for foreign journalists to come to Afghanistan, the spokesman concluded.

Hekmatyar Survives Scud Missile Attack 23 Jul

BK2407060189 Hong Kong AFP in English 1824 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 23 (AFP)—Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a key rebel leader and foreign minister in the Afghan mujahidins's interim government narrowly missed being hit during a Scud missile attack by the forces of the Kabul regime, resistance sources said Sunday.

They said a least 16 of the long-range Scud missiles were fired into an area of Parvan Province where the rebel leader was reported to be.

Mr. Hekmatyar was in the mujahidin-held area in an attempt to capture its provincial capital, which the sources said was "the only place still under the regime's control."

The Afghan resistance's news agency said the regime' forces, until now using a Kabul launching site, have begun firing Scuds from Afghanistan's lone port, Hayratan, situated on the Oxus River.

The site is close to the border with the Soviet Union, in Parvan Province, said to be the hub of Mr. Hekmatyar's current military activities.

Kabul Hit by Rockets 22 Jul; 36 Killed

OW2207125989 Tokyo KYODO in English 1235 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 22 KYODO—More than 36 people were killed and 109 injured Saturday morning when at least 10 rockets hit the center of Kabul.

The area most affected wa close to a bus station next to the Ministry of Educatic which is also a vendor's paradise.

Police and firefighters wer busy collecting the scattered limbs of the bodies, and w shing away the blood of the victims from that wide ar for an hour.

Right after the explosion n rly all the shopkeepers in the area which is one of the bus st streets in Kabul, in front of the city's central park, were orced to close their shops and run away along with fright ed women and children.

According to informed sou ces, "one of these rockets hit the premises of the Coun l of Ministers but none was hurt."

The third one exploded n front of the Ministry of Culture and Information killing a woman, said an eyewitness.

More on Att ack, Casualties

LD2207173289 Kabul Do estic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] The criminal and reacherous extremists, whose ugly and evil faces are becoming more clear to our Muslim and faithful co patriots, have today added another shameful page on the crowded residential crimes by perpetrating an the black history of their able crime aganst our war other shameful and unforgiv- weary compatriots.

The BAKHTAR milita morning the wicked crimi section reported that this surface-to-surface missile nal extremists again fired nine areas of Kabul city. This once again demonstrates their blood-thirsty fire and the pain and misery of our people. They have martyred 40 of our innocent compatriots including innocent child en, women, and elderly. They have wounded another 1 persons. Those injured were quickly taken to the hos pitals, where they are under treatment and observatio n.

During the past week crim inal extremists who have sold out and who are further equipped and strengthened by their support, contrary to all international norms and standards as well as prov isions of the Geneva accords, fired a total of 40 blind missiles—with generous assistance from their supporters—on the residential areas of Kabul city. They detonated 500 kg explosives in front of a Bamyan restaurant and exploded a pin bomb in Khayr Khanah Maina, martyring 53 of our compatriots including women, children, and the elderly, and injuring another 202 persons. They also destroyed a number of residential houses belonging to our compatriots, rendering them homeless.

Spokesman Blames Rebels, Pakistan

BK2207161289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1556 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 22 (AFP)—Suspected mujahidin rebels fired half a dozen rockets into the center of Kabul Saturday [22 July], killing 40 civilians and wounding 114, officials said.

Twenty were killed when a rocket slammed into a bus station in De Afghana, a busy commercial district in the heart of the city, during the morning rush hour, government spokesman Muhammed Nabi Amani said. Five other rockets slammed into a central area that is the site of several government ministries including the Foreign Ministry and the prime minister's offices.

One rocket hit a five-storey construction site opposite the Foreign Ministry, sending several workers plunging to their deaths, witnesses said.

Mr. Amani said the rocketting casualty toll was unprecedented, with a total of 40 dead and 114 injured and hospitalised, many in serious condition.

The spokesman blamed the rocketting on "criminal extremists," a euphemism for mujahidin rebels fighting to topple the Soviet-backed Kabul government, and their "patrons," the rebels' main backer, Pakistan.

"As far as it is known the extremists are trying to impose a psychological pressure on citizens by firing these blind rockets," he said. "The extremists and their patrons are resorting to tactics designed to create terror among the people," Mr. Amani said.

He added: "It was quite obvious that the hands of Pakistan were stained with the blood of innocent Afghans. "It is Pakistan which prepares the facilities for destructive acts against Afghanistan," he said, laying the blame for the rocketting on Pakistan's inter-services intelligence and "militarist circles."

Ambulances with their sirens wailing raced through Kabul streets ferrying the dead and the wounded to hospitals. Twenty-three people, many of them mutilated beyond recognition, lay dead in the mortuary of the Jumhuriyat Hospital, where 57 of the wounded were also brought.

"The situation is very, very bad," said Jumhuriyat Chief Doctor Sarwar Wasil as his staff struggled to cope with the rush of victims and wailing relatives who thronged the hospital. He said the 23 dead included 11 men, eight children and four women. Eight people were listed in critical condition and under intensive care, a doctor on duty said.

Another eight were brought dead to Avicina Emergency Hospital, which admitted 23 wounded, including 15 who were in "very serious condition," a doctor there said. The wounded were distributed among Kabul's 13 hospitals.

Widowed women mourned outside Jumhuriyat Hospital, wailing and beating their chests. Relatives thronged the morgue trying to identify the dead. Corridors of the hospital were splattered with blood. Many victims, some of whom had lost limbs, lay groaning and bleeding awaiting treatment.

Saturday's rocketting by Egyptian-made Sacker-20's and Sacker-30's came a week after a car-bomb explosion left 10 people dead and 54 wounded in Kabul.

On July 10, 20 people were killed and 131 wounded when mujahidin rebels rained 65 rockets on the city.

More than 30 people died in each of the past two weeks of rebel rocketting of the capital.

Rebels Blame Government

BK2407090889 Islamabad Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] A spokesman of the Afghan interim government has said that the mujahidin have been instructed to target only military installations in and around Kabul, and to strictly avoid hitting civilian-populated areas. He told the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY that Kabul regime troops were responsible for Saturday's [22 July] attack on Kabul as they fired the missiles from (Heritan Kowt) to attack and destroy mujahidin positions. A large number of people were killed and wounded in the attack.

2 Killed in Missile Attack on Kabul 23 Jul

LD2307174589 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] The murderers of our Muslim and faithful people, contrary to the sacred religion of Islam and the law of Muhammad, today once again launched 10 missiles on residential areas in Kabul city and committed another shocking and unforgiveable crime. The military section of BIA reports that as a result of these blind missile attacks by these criminals and professional killers, two of our compatriots were martyred and 16 others, including women and children, were injured. The injured were transfered to hospital and are receiving treatment.

The missiles also inflicted material losses on our peace-loving and Muslim compatriots.

Press 'Declaration' on Pakistan's 'Interferences'

LD2407084989 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0515 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 23, BAKHTAR—The direct and overt interferences of Pakistan, following the signing of the Geneva accords, in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan, (RA), have possessed vast and an extensive dimensions [as received]. The Pakistan Government by organizing rocket attacks of extremists backed by its militarists on residential areas including explosions and sending mercenaries to the Afghan territory, pours more fuel to the flames of war in Afghanistan. Says a declaration of BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY released here today and which was distributed in a press conference held in Foreign Affairs Ministry of the country on July 23.

The Pakistani Government from the very beginning of the signing of the Geneva accords, violates it, by ignoring the paragraph related to non-interference and non-intervention of the accords, with the delivery of large amount of weapons, and sending mercenaries and destructive elements to the territory of the RA as well as keeping and expansion of extremists military bases in Pakistan territory, has intensified interferences and encroachments against our country. [sentence as received] It has allsidedly cooperated and is cooperating with the ever further and urgent equipping of extremists, stated the declaration.

Rocket attacks in the last week, explosion near to Bamian Hotel and explosion of a pen-bomb took place at the direct behest of Pakistani militarists which claimed the lives of 53 innocent persons including elders, women and children and injuring 202 others, can be cited as a new wave of terrorism.

Likewise, sending of a group of Pakistani military advisers in January 1989 to Zabol province, meetings of Pakistani general names Iftikhar Ahmad with the heads of extremists groups in Quetta, Peshawar, in February 1989 and illegal infiltration of the two prominent officers of Pakistani spying network, called General Aman and General Arif to the Khowst grand district and into the frontier region of Chenar in March 1989, can be cited as irrefutable documents of intensification of war in the RA and trampling under feet the provisions of the Geneva Accords, the declaration added.

For the diversion and deceit of the world public opinions, the declaration adds, the Pakistani authorities apparently talks on the ensurance of peace in the Republic of Afghanistan "RA", but in reality continue their hostile activities as well as their interferences for the continuation of war and bloodshed in the Afghan territory.

Unveiling of such flagrant interferences could be observed in the confessions made by two Pakistani spies named Mohammad Afzal Gajar and Mohammad Ashraf who were arrested during their spying activities and organising of armed activities against the RA in Qandahar Province in March 1989. Another undeniable proof of the shameless interferences of Pakistan in the internal affairs of the Republic of Afghanistan is the arrest of another Pakistani spy called Mukhtar Gul. Mukhtar Gul, who is a resident of the Charsadda District, Peshawar, after receiving military training in the Alfatah camp in Parachinar, as well as, receiving special training in Kashmir and Islamabad, entered Afghan territory alongside with a Gulbuddin extremist group four months ago and was arrested in the Zarkharid area, Konduz Province, on July 6, 1989.

In this connection, Pakistan by violating the provisions of the Geneva accords and through the intensification and continuation of war in Afghanistan intends to change the events taking place in Afghanistan into a regional conflict which will bring unprecedented grave consequences.

In this connection the BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY (BIA) stresses that responsibilities of the entire aftermath and grave consequences of the possible continuation of war in Afghanistan and its organisation by the Pakistani militarists will rest on the shoulders of those who by the pursuance of their narrow-minded unrealistic policies, help the continuation of tension among Afghans and [words indistinct] country, the declaration concluded.

Captured Pakistani on Plans To Destroy Bridge
BK2307152289 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 23 (AFP)—The Afghan Government Sunday [23 July] presented to journalists a captured Pakistani who detailed plans to blow up the "Friendship Bridge" that links Afghanistan and the Soviet Union.

Mukhtar Gul, 25, said he was an officer of the Pakistani Central Intelligence Department (CID) and one of a three-man group entrusted with the mission.

Observers here said the presentation was a continuation of the propaganda blitz launched by Kabul designed to paint Islamabad as a foreign invader in order to drum up domestic and international support.

The Friendship Bridge, built over the Amu Darya River, links the northern Afghan town of Heiraton with the Soviet Union. It is vital for Soviet supplies to reach Afghanistan.

"The Friendship Bridge is very important for Afghanistan and that is why we were told to destroy it," Mr. Gul said in Urdu through an interpreter. He said the group wanted to carry out the mission this summer because "the weather is good and the water is warm," but said his arrest July 6 in Konduz Province had scuttled the plan.

Mr. Gul, bearded and wearing a blue Afghan salwar suit, was presented at the offices of the Afghan Foreign Ministry. He appeared relaxed and handled a volley of questions with confidence. He said his group was also instructed to find out the dimensions of the Amu Darya river, including its depth and width, and identify spots where it could be mined.

Mr. Gul said the plan had been hatched by the Pakistani Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI) and the CID under the guidance of a U.S. adviser who went under the name of Karim Abdul Hakim.

The Hezb-e Eslami led by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar was the Afghan mujahidin group involved, he said.

Mr. Gul said he had been trained for three months in swimming, scuba diving, handling light and heavy weapons and how to mine waterways. Each member of his group was equipped with a Kalashnikov assault rifle, mines, surface to surface rockets and communications equipment.

He said he had not been pressured into making his statement by the Kabul Government.

Mr. Gul said his group had tried to visit Heiraton, just north of Mazar-e-Sharif, on a reconnaisance mission but cancelled it because of heavy Afghan Government security along the way.

Afghan authorities said in a statement distributed to reporters that Mr. Gul's case was an example of escalated Pakistani intervention "against the border regions of the Soviet Union."

In recent months, Kabul authorities presented two Pakistanis who were subsequently sentenced to long prison terms and an Egyptian before journalists here. They were introduced as agents sent to carry out subversive activities in Afghanistan.

Rabbani Interviewed on Attack by Gulbuddin
LD2107191489 Tehran Television Service in Persian 1700 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Burhanuddin Rabbani, leader of Afghanistan's Islamic Society, while elaborating on the nature of the martyrdom of 38 high-ranking commanders of the Afghan holy war, by the agents of Hekmatyar's Islamic Party, called this act ruthless and atrocious. He said, no doubt this crime was totally coordinated by Gulbudin Hekmatyar.

In an interview with IRNA, Burhanuddin Rabbani said, the crime perpetrated by the Hekmatyar gang is not enmity toward the Islamic Society, but enmity toward the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan, and it was committed with the intention of purging the most important dignatories and commanders of Afghanistan's holy war. He added the Islamic Society and the families of the martyrs have requested the interim government to arrest and punish the perpetrators of this crime.

Rabbani added, we do not want to fuel internal discords in the name of revenge and retaliate. However, we would like to see justice done and put a stop to the megalomaniac desires of the power seekers. He reiterated that the Islamic Society of Afghanistan explicitly calls on the interim government of the mujahidin to make a firm decision pertaining to this crime and not to let those perpetrators of this crime and those who masterminded it get away.

Regarding the stance adopted by the other seven-party coalition groups with respect to the massacre of 38 commanders of the Islamic Society, he said, some of these groups have condemned the crime committed by the Hekmatyar group, but they have not yet adopted a united stance. Regarding the nature of this crime, Burhanuddin Rabbani, said, the high-ranking commanders of Afghanistan's holy war, most of whom were members of the Islamic Society, were assaulted by hundreds of men from Hekmatyar's Islamic Party on their return to headquarters after a session convened to find the means to break the stalemate on the war fronts. In the first few minutes, 4 of the well-known and active mujhahidin commanders were martyred and 34 were taken captive. He added, even though these commanders possessed the ability to defend themselves, they surrendered to the Islamic Party to prevent further bloodshed, but after having been taken captive, they were ruthlessly tortured and killed.

The leader of the Islamic Society said, these martyrs were among the most experienced and active commanders in the course of the Afghan holy war, and they delivered fatal blows against the Marxist regime in Kabul and their aggressive (?affiliates). He spoke of "Abdul Wadud and Dr Mohammad Hosayni, another one of the martyrs, as extremely valuable figures in the Islamic revolution of Afghanistan.

At the end of his interview, Rabbani announced that he will relate the details of the crime committed by the Hekmatyar group in a news conference in Peshawar in Pakistan.

Jalalabad Fighting Continues; Rebels Clash

LD2207082789 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0439 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Kabul, July 21, BAKHTAR—The Armed Forces of the Republic of Afghanistan have moved forward towards the southern and eastern parts of Jalalabad city and have occupied new positions there, says an authoritative source of the Armed Forces to a BAKHTAR reporter. The government Armed Forces have advanced in the eastern direction of Samar Kheyl to an extensive area and captured three fortified positions of the enemy.

During this military operation, two personnel of the Armed Forces were killed and five injured. From the side of the enemy, 144 extremists lost their lives and 198 injured. A large quantity of arms and ammunitions of the enemy fell to the hand of the Armed Forces.

The Pakistani-supported extremists fired rockets on the provinces of Paktia and Qanda'ar as a result of which one government soldier was killed and ten houses were damaged. In a counterattack, two extremists were killed and a quantity of their arms and munitions fell to the hand of the Armed Forces.

The extremists under the order of their masters also planted a pen bomb on children game field at Kheyr Khaneh area, the explosion of which caused an innocent child to lose two of his hands and several other children were wounded.

According to another report, two rival extremist groups of Rabbani and Gulbuddin continue fighting. In Ghowr and Takhar Provinces, tens of persons from both bands were either killed by each other or injured. They also captured each other's weapons.

The organs of the State Security Ministry staged mopping up operations in the related areas of Paghman District in order to prevent the launching of surface-to-surface rockets by extremists.

As a result of this operation, ten surface-to-surface rockets which were planted and adjusted in the related areas of Paghman district were detected and defused on time.

Major Attack in Jalalabad Area 'Foiled'

BK2207083189 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] Latest reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have foiled a major offensive of the Kabul regime troops in Jalalabad area. The attack was aimed at preventing the mujahidin from advancing toward Jalalabad city.

According to AFGHAN PRESS AGENCY, the fighter planes of the regime are bombing indiscriminately in (Pol-e Saracha) area. Despite the heavy bombing, the mujahidin forced the invading troops [words indistinct] retreat after a daylong resistance.

Another report says the mujahidin captured three security posts in (?Spin Khwar) area, where 40 Kabul troops were killed and injured. They also seized a large quantity of arms and ammunition.

Mujahidin Operations in Provinces Detailed

BK2107152789 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] In Afghanistan, the mujahidin have shelled many security posts of Kabul regime troops in Nangarhar, Qandahar, and Khowst. Kabul Radio has confirmed the shelling. The mujahidin also attacked many Kabul regime troop positions in Spin Buldak cantonment in Paktia Province. During these attacks they arrested a large number of Kabul regime troops, including officers.

The mujahidin are reported to have attacked a supply convoy of Kabul regime troops in Baghlan Province, forcing them to flee. One tank was damaged and 10 military vehicles destroyed during the operation. The mujahidin also captured three trucks loaded with arms,

ammunition, and food. In another operation, the mujahidin blew up a 5-kilometer pipeline near Pol e-Khomri in the same province. The pipeline supplies petrol and diesel to Kabul.

Mujahidin Foil Kabul Attack on Samar Kheyl

BK2407024589 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say the mujahidin have foiled an attack by forces of the Kabul regime on Samarkhel, inflicting heavy casualties on them.

Meanwhile, the mujahidin fired more rockets on Kabul yesterday, killing 2 persons and wounding 17 others.

In other operations, the mujahidin captured several posts of the Kabul regime in Baghlan, Nangarhar, Paktia, and Qandahar Provinces, besides causing heavy losses in men and material.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the interim Afghan government has told the AFGHAN NEWS AGENCY that the mujahidin have been directed to hit only military installations in and around Kabul City and not to attack areas with civilian population.

The prime minister of the interim government of Afghanistan, Professor 'Abdul Rab Rasul Sayyaf, has asked the supporters of the Afghan holy war to extend their fullest support to the mujahidin in establishing an Islamic government in Afghanistan. In a statement in Peshawar, he said the mujahidin are fully capable of establishing a government of their own choice and nobody should interfere in the internal affairs of the interim government.

India

Mob Clashes With Police; Curfew in Anantnag

BK2307145289 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, curfew was imposed in Anantnag town today after a violent mob clashed with police and set ablaze two government vehicles and a private hotel. A portion of the hotel was damaged. People were protesting against the missing of a holy relic of Syed Abdul Qadir Gilani [Muslim saint] from the Chenab Saheb. The IG [Inspector General], Kashmir Range, Mr Gopal Sharma, told our Srinagar correspondent that police have got vital clues and the holy relic is hoped to be restored very soon. He said the situation in Srinagar and other towns of the valley remained peaceful.

Meanwhile, the day curfew in Leh town of the state was lifted. The IG, Kashmir Range, added that no untoward incident was reported during the curfew relaxation period.

State Minister of Finance on Bofors Report

BK2107160889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Elaborating on the financial aspects of the report of the Comptroller and Auditor General [CAG] [on the Bofors gun deal], the minister of state for finance, Mr Ajit Panja, has said that negotiations for the purchase of the Bofors gun were conducted by a high-level negotiating committee headed by the defense secretary. It included the scientific adviser to the defense minister, the deputy chief of the Army Staff and the secretary of the Expenditure [Department], besides senior officers. The negotiating committee discussed all aspects, including technical matters and quality aspects. It also had detailed discussions on contractual terms, credit terms and the terms for licensed production [of the gun]. After taking into consideration all aspects, the committee placed its report before the minister of state for defense production and the minister of state for defense. The then finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh, was completely satisfied about the method of evaluation and about the price arrived at after negotiations.

The statement was issued by Mr Panja in his capacity as the minister of state for finance. It says that the opposition is now running away from a discussion on the CAG's report because it will be established that it was the then finance minister, Mr V.P. Singh himself, who had approved the Bofors gun deal after he was duly satisfied at the financial clearance and evaluation procedures. The deal also ensured that the Bofors gun had been supplied at the most advantageous financial terms.

Opposition Obstructs Proceedings

BK2107151589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] For the 3d consecutive day today, uproarious and unruly scenes continued to dog the proceedings of both houses of parliament. Opposition members in both the houses blocked the proceedings by raising antigovernment slogans and adopting stalling tactics.

Soon after the question hour, opposition members in both houses again raised the issue of CAG report [Comptroller and Auditor General report on Bofors gun deal]. The Lok Sabha speaker, Mr Bal Ram Jakhar, and the deputy chairman, Mrs Najma Heptullah, in the Rajya Sabha, repeatedly pleaded with the opposition members to get on with the listed business for the day. They made every effort to proceed with the business, but in vain. The Lok Sabha was adjourned once during the morning session, while the Rajya Sabha was adjourned twice as opposition members indulged in shouting and raising antigovernment slogans.

In the Lok Sabha, soon after the question hour, when opposition members were on their feet raising slogans, the speaker read out a motion of the Business Advisory

Committee pertaining to the postponement of the discussion on the CAG report to Monday [24 July]. However, both houses settled down to proceed with the private members business during the postlunch session.

In the Rajya Sabha, most of the opposition stayed away from the proceedings of the house during the postlunch session.

The minister of state for law and justice, Mr H.R. Bharadwaj, has said the opposition behavior in not allowing any business in parliament is not a healthy situation. He said in the Rajya Sabha today that the opposition members claim their salaries and even charge TA and DA [travel allowance and dearness or cost of living allowance] but stall the proceedings. The minister asked: Is this the success of democracy? Mr Bharadwaj was intervening in the discussion on a private member's bill seeking to remove certain lacuna in the antidefection law. The bill was moved by Mr Pavan Kumar, Congress-I.

For the 3d day in succession today, the visitors to Parliament went back disappointed with noisy scenes dominating the proceedings for the major part of the day. Many of them had come for the first time to the capital and to Parliament. The overall reactions of the visitors were that they were not impressed by what they have seen in the Parliament.

The minister for parliamentary affairs, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, has said the attitude of the opposition in both houses of parliament is becoming more and more ludicrous day by day. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today, he said they have been trying to use the Bofors gun issue for political gains through a false campaign of character assassination and fabricated charges against the government. Their campaign, which was false and artificial, has flopped. Mr Bhagat said that in the CAG report, the opposition saw new illusions, and asked for regular discussions through motions. After discussions were allowed instead of proceeding with the debate, they ran away through obstructions. The minister of state for parliamentary affairs, Mr M.M. Jacob, who also joined Mr Bhagat, said once the report is presented to parliament, it has full authority to discuss it.

106 Opposition Members To Resign

BK2307114889 Hong Kong AFP in English 1138 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] New Delhi, July 23 (AFP)—More than 100 opposition members of India's Lower House decided unanimously Sunday [23 July] to resign en masse from Parliament to protest alleged corruption in the government of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi. The resignation of 106 opposition lawmakers was announced Sunday afternoon by the leaders of 12 opposition parties.

"The decision was taken ... to protect democracy of our country," N.T. Rama Rao, chairman of the opposition coalition National Front and chief minister of Andhra Pradesh State told some 100 journalists.

The opposition had stalled parliamentary procedings for three days last week calling for the resignation of the Gandhi government following a government report which found irregularities in a 1.3 billion dollar field gun purchase from the Swedish arms firm Bofors in 1986.

There are 140 opposition members in the Lower House.

Former Finance Minister and President of the Janta Dal (People's Party) Vishwanath Pratap Singh said: "It is not a question of corruption alone. It is now the question of integrity and sovereignty of the country."

"The 400-odd Congress (I) members of Parliament do not represent what the people feel at this time. It has become a non-representative parliament now," added Mr. Pratap Singh, who has been the rallying point for the opposition against the government.

"There is no alternative left for the opposition than to go to the people to expose Mr. Gandhi," said Communist Party of India (Marxist) leader E.M.S. Namboodiripad.

The spokesman for one opposition party which did not attend the meeting, the Janata (People's) Party, was quoted by the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA as saying the party believed the Bofors case should be debated in Parliament.

There was no immediate reaction from Mr. Gandhi's ruling Congress (I) Party to the resignations.

Resigning Parties Named

BK2307130889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Leaders of 12 opposition parties and groups announced in New Delhi today that their representatives in the Lok Sabha, will submit their resignations to the speaker individually tomorrow on the issue of the CAG [Comptroller and Auditor General] report. They said that the decision was taken at a joint meeting convened by the National Front chairman, Mr N.T. Rama Rao. They also stated that their members in the Rajya Sabha will not resign, but will continue.

The parties are: Janata Dal, Telugu Desam, BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], CPI [Communist Party of India] CPI-M [Communist Party of India-Marxist], DMK [Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam], AGP [Assom Gana Parishad], Congress-S, Forward Bloc, Akali Dal—Longowal, PWP [People's Workers Party] and RSP [Revolutionary Socialist Party].

Congress-I has described the opposition move as a political gimmick made out of frustration and lack of concern for the problems confronting the nation. In a statement, the parliamentary affairs minister, Mr H.K.L. Bhagat, observed that they know very well that the elections to the Lok Sabha are not far away and the present decision looks all the more ludicrous. It shows their scant respect for constitutional methods, he said.

Resignations Detailed

BK2407065689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Members of several opposition parties and groups today submitted their resignations individually in the Lok Sabha [Lower House of Parliament]. As soon as the House assembled in the morning to take up the customary question hour, Mr Madhav Reddy, Telugu Desam Party, rose and started reading a statement which the speaker disallowed. The ruling party members expressed their protests. Mr Madhav Reddy continued reading his statement. Then he went to the secretary general [of the Lok Sabha] and handed over a letter, saying that it is his resignation from the House. Mr Reddy was followed by Mr Basudeb Acharia, Communist Party of India-Marxist; Mr Madhu Dandavate, Janata Dal; and other opposition members present in the House. However, those belonging to the Muslim League and All Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazagham did not join them, while the Akali Dal members were not present. After submitting their resignation letters individually, they trooped out of the House.

The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, was present in the House, today being the question day for the ministries under his charge. Several Congress-I members, including Professor M.G.Ranga, and the minister of state for information and broadcasting, Professor K.K. Tiwari, sought to criticize the conduct of the opposition describing it as a gimmick violating all democratic norms.

Mr Jakhar [Lok Sabha speaker] observed that he only cherishes democratic values. In a democracy, one has to put forward one's views through arguments, he said. Then the House settled down for its normal business. It may be recalled that 12 opposition parties and groups had announced that their representatives in the Lok Sabha would submit their resignations today on the issue of the comptroller and auditor general report.

Resignation Decision Criticized

BK2407034789 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Leaders of 12 opposition parties and groups have announced that their representatives in the Lok Sabha will submit their resignations to the speaker individually today on the issue of the Comptroller and Auditor General [CAG] report. They said the decision was taken at a joint meeting convened by the National Front chairman, Mr N.T. Rama Rao, in New Delhi yesterday. They also stated that their members in the Rajya Sabha will not resign but will continue. [passage omitted]

The Congress-I has described the opposition move as a political gimmick borne out of frustration and lack of concern for the problems confronting the country. In a joint statement issued on behalf of the party, two general secretaries—Mr Ghulam Nabi Azad and Mr K.N. Singh—said the decision shows the hollowness of the opposition policies and programs. It is also a betrayal of the people who elected them. The statement described the opposition move as a culmination of their irresponsible behavior in Parliament. It said the CAG report is just an excuse. Their decision is merely to sabotage the progressive policies of the government to give power to the people at the grassroots level.

The statement asserted that the government is fully prepared for a discussion on all the issues raised in the CAG report and has nothing to hide. It is the opposition which is now running away after demanding a discussion. By deciding to resign, they have not done any great sacrifice, but only attempted to achieve cheap political publicity, it added.

The two Congress-I general secretaries recalled that during the last session, a historic measure was introduced in the Lok Sabha to give powers to people through panchayati raj [village-level administrative] institutions. The government intends to bring another bill to give similar powers to the urban local bodies. They said the National Front and the Janata Dal, which are the main architects of the move, comprise feudal elements and can never swallow the progressive measures for participatory democracy at the grass roots.

Several chief ministers and Congress-I leaders have also criticized the move.

Iranian Ambassador on Afghan Situation

BK2107164089 Hong Kong AFP in English 1621 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Excerpts] New Delhi, July 21 (AFP)—Iran's new ambassador to India said Friday that Moscow might be ready to sacrifice Afghan President Najibullah and his party for a political settlement on Afghanistan, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported.

PTI quoted the ambassador, Ebrahim Rahimpur, as telling reporters here that the Soviet Union would like to disentangle itself from the Afghan problem.

The Soviet Union would no longer stress the need for Mr. Najibullah and his People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) to be partners in any future settlement, Mr. Rahimpur was quoted as saying.

He added that Moscow had taken several "positive" steps recently and if other superpowers followed these initiatives, conditions for peace in the region could be created.

"The problem (of Afghanistan) can be resolved within the region. There is no need to internationalise the Afghan issue. The Soviet Union, Iran and Pakistan should help establish a sovereign new government in Afghanistan," Mr. Rahimpur reportedly stated. [passage omitted]

Mr. Rahimpur said Iran and the Soviet Union still had differences but they had narrowed down after Iranian Parliament speaker Hojjat ol-eslam Hashemi- Rafsanjani visited Moscow recently. [passage omitted]

Iran

Kuwaiti Paper on 'Secret' Hostage Talks

NC2407100989 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0915 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Citing European diplomatic sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH writes that secret talks were held between Washington and Tehran on the sidelines of Iranian Majlis Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to Moscow. The talks dealt with the transfer of U.S. hostages from Beirut to Iran, once Hashemi-Rafsanjani wins the presidential election in Iran. The hostages are to be freed in exchange for the release of Anis Naqqash and Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, the two Lebanese prisoners.

'Guarantees' Made

NC2407115089 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Citing European diplomatic sources, the Kuwaiti newspaper AL-SIYASAH reports today that two rounds of secret talks between Iran and the U.S. Administration were held recently after Speaker of the Islamic Majlis 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's visit to the Soviet Union.

In a report from Amman, the newspaper says that Deputy Speaker Mehdi Karrubi is the key Iranian figure conducting the talks. Karrubi used to act as personal representative of Ayatollah Khomeyni.

According to AL-SIYASAH, during the talks the Iranian delegation stressed that the European and American hostages held in Beirut will be moved to Iran immediately after Hashemi-Rafsanjani wins the presidential elections. In return, guarantees were given. These included the release of two Lebanese prisoners in Europe, namely Anis Naqqash, who is being held in France, and Muhammad 'Ali Hamadah, who is being held in West Germany.

Tehran 'May Consider' U.S. Compensation Offer

LD2107161389 Tehran IRNA in English 1601 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., July 21, IRNA—The Islamic Republic may consider acceptance of compensation from the United States for its downing of Iran Air Flight 655 last year, "only after Washington is judicially and legally condemned for its crime," said head of Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) Mohammad-Nabi Habibi today.

Iran, he said, has filed a lawsuit at the International Court of Justice in the Hague, and is determined to bring the United States to justice.

The lawsuit coupled with the possibility that the court may rule Washington to be the aggressor in light of clear-cut evidence and documents, he noted, has caused the United States to put forth the suggestion of compensation to families of victims through the Iranian Government as a 'preventive' measure.

On the fateful 3rd of July 1988, the USS Vincennes, supposed to be the most sophisticated destroyer in the world, unmanly [as received] fired two missiles at the regular Dubai-bound Iran Air Flight 655 moments after its take-off from Bandar-e 'Abbas.

There were no survivors aboard the Airbus A-300 which went down into the Hormuz Strait with all 290 passengers and crew, including several children.

The media in Iran has cautioned against taking the American bait, and on Thursday the English daily 'KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL' dismissed Washington's "humiliating offer" for lives which cannot be revived whatever the cost.

Commentary on U.S. Reaction to USSR Trip

NC0907124789 Tehran RESALAT in Persian 25 Jun 89 p 12

[Commentary by RESALAT's Foreign Political Department: "Blatant U.S. Intervention in Other Countries' Relations"]

[Text] The momentous historical visit by esteemed Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hashemi-Rafsanjani to the Soviet Union ended on Friday night and culminated in signing scientific, commerical, economic, and industrial accords between the two countries until the year 2000. At the same time, we witnessed certain observations and opinions being aired by political and news circles and some foreign officials regarding the significance and effects of the visit.

Among these opinions and analyses, the most conspicuous is the U.S. reaction to Soviet-Iranian ties. The latest of such remarks are those of the U.S. secretary of state to

the House of Representatives session regarding the possible sale of Soviet arms to Iran and a warning to the Soviet Union about this. Earlier, the State Department spokesman had said that the United States takes serious notice of Moscow's efforts for closeness with Iran, a country which continues its support of international terrorism and hostage-taking. THE WASHINGTON POST had reported some time ago, that the Bush administration has warned the Soviet Union that the sale of all kinds of arms to the Islamic Republic of Iran would incur a reproach from the United States. This U.S. attitude and reaction on the accords between the two neighboring countries, which are thousand of miles away from the United States, merits attention for certain reasons:

1. The U.S. officials' stance and opinions on the esteemed speaker of the Islamic Majlis' Soviet visit are overt contradictions of all the norms of international relations of countries and of bilateral realtions between governments. The basic principle that has been accepted by all countries is that in the formulation of domestic and foreign policy there should be complete independence for nations to act according to their own wishes. Therefore, there is no proviso in the charter of nations that states that foreign relations of countries should be dictated and formulated by others. Now the question that arises is: How can Washington allow itself the prerogative of advising the Soviet Union on how to forge relations with its neighbors or on what policies to follow?

It would be appropriate if the Soviet Union were to display a strong and serious reaction regarding such U.S. interference and thus expose the White House's self-styled guardianship over world affairs to public opinion.

2. The allegation that the Islamic Republic of Iran "continues its support of international terrorism and hostage-taking" is in fact the employing of old and ineffective levers, which the U.S. foreign policy machinery uses as an expedient. To deem Iran a supporter of international terrorism is not even acceptable in the West and has long been declared obsolete. The recent return of the French and FRG envoys to Tehran after an absence of a few months and the repeated efforts by Washington to resume ties with Iran are indisputable and concrete, rendering such allegations fallacious.

Today, Palestine, Lebanon, South Africa, and hundreds of other parts of the world, are examples of the support of government-sponsored terrorism by the White House echelons. The world is aware of how every country which resists U.S. objectives and desires is labeled a supporter of terrorism, a violator of human rights, and nondemocratic and dictatorial.

Reagan's efforts for 8 years and the utterances of Bush following his election as President are manifest examples of the U.S. desire for relations with a country which is in the neighborhood of an Eastern superpower and is the greatest power in the Persian Gulf region. Iranian and Soviet cooperation will open a new chapter in the waning of U.S. power in the region and will seemingly have far-reaching repercussions. Thus, by adopting such unprincipled and half-baked stances, the United States will merely display its own confusion.

ABRAR Blames U.S. for Beijing Unrest

LD2506092589 Tehran IRNA in English 0855 GMT 25 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 25, IRNA—Sacked Chinese Communist Party leader Zhao Ziyang became the victim of an American plot and should not be blamed for the recent popular unrest in China, a daily commented Sunday.

ABRAR said Ziyang's dismissal was predicted "long before" he issued his emotional plea to students in China's main square on May 19 to end their pro-democracy protest.

The paper stressed that Zhao could not be linked with the unrest which was aimed at obtaining more political and economic freedom "but was led unknowingly by agents of the Western world, especially the U.S., towards its own goals."

It was this plot which forced Chinese leaders to counter the demonstrators in a "harsh and bloody manner," the paper believed.

"This should be pointed out that Ziyang, because of his reformist views, flexibility and leniency, became a victim of the American conspiracy in China and paid a heavy price for it."

ABRAR said it was not expected that Ziyang's would be removed from every party and government post and isolated in such a way.

West's Efforts To Improve Relations Viewed

NC2206203289 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 14 Jun 89 pp 2, 5

[Editorial: "Respect for Our Principles Base for Friendly Relations"]

[Text] France and West Germany, two prominent members of the European Community (EC) announced officially that their ambassadors will return to Tehran today to upgrade diplomatic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran. This action entails an order of Imam Khomeyni for the execution of the author of blasphemous "Satanic Verses" when relations between the West and Iran reached their lowest level since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. Tehran and many other Western capitals had recalled their ambassadors to their respective capitals for consultations.

The fact is with the selection of Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i as the Islamic Republic's Leader and the all-out support for him from officials and people of all walks of life, most of the unrealistc predictions of Western strategists concerning dangerous political, social and economic changes in Iran will never be realized. The Islamic Republic system actually once again revived the stability and popular support which it had mustered at the beginning of the revolutionary era.

Thus there is no reason for the system to waste time on debates and presentation of various viewpoints in choosing its economic, political strategy for protection of principles and aspirations of the revolution.

This is the reality that Europe that Europe and the EC seem to have quickly realized and have already taken steps for improving political relations with the Islamic Iran during the second decade. The revolution, they have rightfully recognized, is politically and economically stable and strong.

Iran, however, has no unsolvable problem in establishing diplomatic and economic relations with Europe based on principles accepted to our Islamic nation. Naturally Tehran desires healthy and stable relations with Europe which would not be vulnerable to spasmodic political crises. Iran also desires that adventures such as Europe's reaction in support of a cultural criminal like Rushdie, a move that upset and affected all diplomatic equations and Irano-European relations be not repeated. Sound diplomatic relations should be valuable enough not to be allowed to be hampered by spasmodic political tactics.

Of course so far the Iranian Foreign Ministry has not officially reacted to France's and West Germany's joint decision to send their envoys back but Tehran's official reaction in this connection may be predicted to some extent.

According to Iran's Majlis speaker, 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Iran never shut the door on friendly and logical relations with Europe based on a realistic political strategy.

Therefore based on its national interests and fundamental principles Tehran will most likely give a positive response to this positive political move by Bonn and Paris. But prior to that Iran wishes to be assured that the events of the past be not repeated. Europe should not extend its hands for establishment of relations without a correct understanding and having a logical and independent political viewpoint.

We are members of one international family. Yet in our political direction and development of strategic relations only our national interests and objectives of the Islamic Revolution are important to us. As such friendly relations are conceivable to us only within the context of these principles.

Khamene'i Receives Amal, Hizballah Leaders

LD2307192189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] This afternoon Messrs Shaykh Subhi al-Tufayli and Sa'id Hasan Nasrullah, who are among the leading members of Lebanon's revolutionary Hizballah movement, along with Mr Nabih Birri, leader of the Amal Movement in Lebanon, were received separately by His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, and conferred with him. Foreign Minister Velayati also attended the meetings.

Lebanese Clergyman Fadlallah Interviewed

NC1707182589 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 10 Jul 89 p 3

[Excerpts] Scholar Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, combatant Lebanese clergyman, gave an exclusive interview yesterday afternoon to our correspondent and stated his views on the heart-rending death of Imam Khomeyni—may his soul be sanctified—on the selection of Ayatollah Khamene'i as leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran; and on the problems of Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

Commenting on how the news on the heart-rending loss of Imam Khomeyni was received by the people of Lebanon, he said at the beginning of the interview:

The imam's demise had a very great and sad impact on the people of Lebanon and all the pious Lebanese felt that they had lost a great father—a father who was the guide of their Islamic movements. [passage omitted]

As for the selection of His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic Republic, the Lebanese Muslims and especially Lebanon's Muslim ulema considered this selection as a successful and wise move because Ayatollah Khamene'i has all the good and outstanding characteristics that are required; and he is worthy of being a leader, especially because of his Islamic spirit and his Islamic world outlook. The people of Lebanon believe that he is actually the leader of the entire Islamic world and that responsibility for all Muslims now rests on his shoulders. This is because we do not believe in limiting Islamic leadership to a country and we do not believe in racial and geographic borders. We believe that the Islamic Republic is considered to be a strong base of Islam and of Islamic movements. Thus, the leader of the Islamic Republic is actually the leader of the entire Muslim world.

Therefore, we announce that we accept Ayatollah Khamene'i's leadership and that we are prepared to advance under his banner. We are with him in all his movements, as we continue on the path of the imam.

On a discussion of Lebanon to be proposed during the upcoming Arab summit in Pais, he said: European countries think of Lebanon as a place to prepare and execute their plans.

Because of their political and economic interests in Lebanon, the European countries try to exercise a role, in various ways, in the entire region and especially in Lebanon. This is why they consider Lebanon to be the political key to the region.

The problem of the European and non-European countries in Lebanon is that the United States does not allow them to interfere in Lebanon's political and security affairs without its supervision. Therefore, European countries' intervention in the Lebanese problem is within the framework of U.S. plans and this is why such interventions are doomed to fail.

But as Lebanese Muslims, we believe that the European countries and the United States cannot solve our problem. If problems are solved in Lebanon by the United States or the European countries, this is done by keeping in mind their own interests. This is why we do not consider their intervention in Lebanon's affairs to be legal.

We asked him about the Arab summit in Casablanca. He said: We believe that this conference was held not to solve Lebanon's problems, but that it was held at U.S. request. The United States pursued several objectives in this conference, including the return of Egypt to the gathering of Arab countries and the implementation of U.S. policies in Arab countries.

Discussion of the issue of Lebanon was actually an attempt to mask U.S. objectives.

We believe that the conference did not benefit Lebanon and that the solution to the problem of Lebanon is contingent on a solution to the Middle East problem.

We believe that the existence of some Arab leades is the root of Lebanon's problem and that these leaders cannot solve any of our problems.

On the recent agreement between Hizballah and Amal, scholar Fadlallah stated:

We support the consolidation of relations between Islamic movements because there is only one Islamic base for both of them. We believe that Islamic movements should be strong vis-a-vis the United States, Zionism, and world arrogance.

We believe that the agreement between the Hizballah and Amal has reached the objective intended. However, foreign and local spying and intelligence organizations are trying to exploit some existing problems in order to create differences among Islamic movements.

We, and especially the Muslim 'ulema, try to elevate the agreements to a favorable and higher level in order to be able to unite our forces to triumph over plots engineered by world arrogance.

Referring to the recent incidents in occupied Palestine, scholar Fadlallah said: In our opinion, the uprising of the Palestinian people helped to determine the identity of their Islamic movement, and this movement can withstand the compromising movements of the PLO and of the Arab countries that follow U.S. policies; hence the efforts by most of the Arab regimes and European countries to crush this uprising. They are attempting this because they fear the impact that this uprising will have on their international policies. The Arab and European regimes want this region to be under the West's control and they do not allow any other policy to infiltrate this region. [passage omitted] But the recent martyrdom-seeking operation by a Palestinian who pushed a bus carrying Americans and Zionists over a cliff showed that the people who have been living in Palestine since 1948 continue their anti-Zionist movements. We believe that this movement should expand in order to create more problems for the Zionists.

On the reason behind his visit to Iran, scholar Fadlallah stated: I have come to Islamic Iran, to the Iran of Imam Khomeyni, may his soul be sanctified, because Iran is the base and center of the movement of the world's Muslims. [passage omitted]

Editorial on Visits by Amal, PFLP Leaders

NC1407112089 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 10 Jul 89 p 2

[Editorial: "A Grand Opportunity To Resolve Shi'a Unity in Lebanon"]

[Text] Both prominent leaders of the Lebanese Shi'a groups in Lebanon are now in Iran. Amal leader Nabih Birri and the leader of the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) Ahmad Jibril accompanied Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati when he returned from his week-long outing to Geneva, Yugoslavia, and Syria. The leaders are here to take part in 40th day ceremonies for Imam Khomeyni this week.

This is Nabih Birri's first visit to Iran and no doubt this can be important and augur very well for a unified direction in Lebanese policy concerning the Shi'ite groups in Lebanon.

The presence then of both parties in Iran can be a grand opportunity for them to resolve whatever differences there may be among them in an atmosphere of friendship and brotherhood. And the time, too, is apt, because both come to take part in ceremonies for one of the greatest leaders of the Muslims and the Muslim cause, not only here in Iran but across the world. And this includes Lebanon which is home to a considerable Shi'ite population in addition to the very numerous

Sunni brothers there whose interests are at stake. What is obvious is that the strategy of those opposed to the Islamic Revolution in Iran and to the forward movement of world Islam, has been to separate all those forces linked in any way to the pivotal Iranian movement—and in keeping with this trend to separate Amal from the mainstream of the Islamic revolution. These opposing forces try to portray Iran as supporter of Hizballah only. But this is definitely not so. It has to be understood that such thinking goes against the very grain of Iran's foreign policy. Iran defends all Islamic and natinalistic forces who have joined hands to defend their lands against Zionist aggrandizement and liberate the occupied territories, including in Lebanon.

Now that Iraq has openly decided to meddle in Lebanon, and has delivered arms to the Maronite faction led by Michel 'Awn, Iran has to redouble its effort to see that the region is not in any way destabilized by such moves. What Iraq is doing is only an extension of its policy of destabilizing the region. One cannot quite see how the Arab League committee appointed to resolve the Lebanese issue is going to get about its business. But it is of course clear that they have entered a rather dangerous quagmire and should steer clear of conspiracies against the progressive and unified forces working within the Lebanese sphere.

It can be expected that Iran will try to make the best opportunity of the presence here of the Shi'ite Lebanese leaders to forge a unified direction to policy in this war-torn nation. Yet Lebanon being what it is and politics in the area being always uncontrollably mercurial, the outcome is always unpredictable despite all that analysts and experts may say. Only time can tell.

Pakistani Defense Minister Arrives on Visit

Received by IRGC Commander

LD2107133889 Tehran IRNA in English 1245 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Mashhad, July 21, IRNA—Visiting Pakistani Minister of State for Defence Ghulam Sarwar Cheema arrived here Friday on pilgrimage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (PBUH) [peace be upon him]—the 8th infallible imam of Prophet Muhammad's (PBUH) household.

The Pakistani Minister accompanied by five of his deputies and several Iranian officials including commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Reza'i paid his respects at the holy golden-dome shrine.

Later, he visited the Razavi museum and library in the shrine complex, and was impressed by the unique collection of handwritten Qurans, some of them dating to the early years of Islam.

While in Tehran yesterday, the Pakistani minister had visited the central headquarters of IRGC, and held talks with commander-in-chief Mohsen Reza'i.

Tours Southwest Border Areas

LD2307103789 Tehran IRNA in English 0715 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Abadan, Khuzestan Prov., July 23, IRNA—Pakistani minister of state for defense described his tour of southwestern Iranian cities and border areas with Iraq as significant and constructive.

Gen. Ghulam Sarwar Cheema also lauded the Iranian people for their sacrifices in reconstructing the city of Abadan and its giant refinery, and the near-by port-city of Khorramshahr.

The Pakistani delegation toured the war-damaged residential areas in both cities and spoke with troops stationed in the region.

The delegation was briefed on the regional situation by Iranian military commanders.

The visit, following Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) Minister 'Ali Shamkhani's recent trip to Islamabad, was also termed useful by the IRGC ground forces commander in the southern region, Argani.

The Pakistani delegation's tour "will have good and effective results in bilateral military cooperation and exchange of experiences," Argani told IRNA.

The Pakistani delegation left Abadan for Tehran Saturday.

Gen. Cheema arrived in Iran Wednesday at the head of a high-ranking military delegation for a nine-day official visit.

The minister and his entourage spent Friday in the northeastern city of Mashhad where they paid homage to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) [God's peace be upon him].

Velayati Returns From Talks in Pakistan

LD2107131989 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Mr Velayati, our country's foreign minister, who was in Pakistan for talks with the authorities there, returned to Tehran at noon today. He replied to questions by our reporter on the results of his talks with the Pakistani authorities. We draw your attention to it:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Velayati, you had talks with high-ranking officials of Pakistan during your visit there. Please tell us about the results of these talks.

[Velayati] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. During the past several weeks numerous talks took place between us and the responsible authorities in Pakistan. [passage omitted]

During this time we held talks on the expansion of bilateral ties as well as regional issues, headed by the Afghan issue. The Afghan problem is the most important issue in this region of the world. [passage omitted]

We welcome the withdrawal of Soviet forces. We are opposed to any attempts to replace the forces which have retreated. Of course, because of the complicated nature of the situation it must be understood that the Afghan problem requires patience, perseverance, and serious steadfastness. These are needed specifically on the political and military scene. Just as the people of Afghanistan had a steady and praiseworthy struggle on the jihad scene, so they must show the same patience and tolerance on the political scene as well. They must show a unified effort with the unity of Muslim forces. They must confront any move for divisiveness. They must know that while military success is achieved through unity, success on the political scene needs more unity and solidarity. We believe that all the mujahidin, including the seven-party group and the eight-party group as well as those independent from the mujahid groups and independent Muslim groups, the Afghan migrants in Pakistan and Iran, and indeed all those whose hearts beat for Afghanistan and who want the well-being of the Afghan nation, all must make efforts side by side for a guaranteed future for Afghanistan, without foreign interference. It must be independent, nonaligned and Muslim.

As the Islamic Republic or Iran for the last 10 years or so we have enjoyed full cooperation, coordination, and solidarity with the Afghan people, mujahidin, and migrants. We will pursue the same course in the future, God willing. We will have the necessary coordination with all the sides in the issue, God willing. [end recording]

Hashemi-Rafsanjani Supports Korean Unification

LD1507203289 Tehran IRNA in English 2020 GMT 15 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 15, IRNA—The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) will always stand by the government and people of Iran in their struggle against imperialism, vowed chairman of the DPRK's National Assembly Yang Hyong-sop, here Saturday.

In a meeting with Majlis speaker Hojjat ol-Eslam Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, Yang pledged his country's support for efforts of the Islamic Republic to implement the U.N. Security Council Resolution 598 and establish a lasting peace in Persian Gulf region.

The DPRK parliamentary speaker and his entourage were among a large number of foreign dignitaries who attended a ceremony Thursday marking the end of a 40 day public mourning for the late leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

Yang said after the May visit to Pyongyang of President 'Ali Khamene'i mutual relations had entered a new phase. He also noted that the DPRK was ready to enforce all agreements reached by the two countries.

He thanked the government, Majlis and people of Iran for voicing support for reunification of the two Koreas.

In reply, Hashemi-Rafsanjani lauded the DPRK leader Kim Il-song for encouraging existing friendly ties between the two countries and said "your country is among those states with which we want to have outstanding relations."

"In practice," Hashemi-Rafsanjani added, "Tehran-Pyongyang ties are at an outstanding level."

On the Iran-Iraqi peace talks, the Majlis speaker said the Islamic Republic was serious in reaching peace and implementing the U.N. Resolution 598. However, Hashemi-Rafsanjani expressed that the Iraqis were behaving in a manner as if they had no authority. "They (Iraqis) very well know that to act in defiance of Resolution 598 is not to their advantage."

After Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598 last August, Iranian forces immediately withdrew from Iraqi territory to internationally recognized borders whereas the Iraqi's began to occupy more Iranian land and since then they have remained there, he said. More than 2,600 sq. kms of Iranian territory is still under Iraqi occupation.

The Majlis speaker felt assured "they (Iraqis) will feel sorry one day." He promised that the Islamic Republic would do all within its power to reunify the North and South Koreas and noted that the continued separation of the two Koreas would only benefit the U.S.

UN Commander Inspects Cease-Fire Lines

LD0907090689 Tehran IRNA in English 0750 GMT 9 Jul 89

[Text] Ahvaz, Kuzestan Prov., July 9, IRNA—Cease-fire lines in Abadan and Khorramshahr were inspected by the commander of the U.N. Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group (UNIIMOG) Maj. Gen. Slavko Jovic Saturday.

Gen. Jovic accompanied by UNIIMOG commander in Iran Brig. Gen. James Kelley also inspected UNIIMOG headquarters in the city of Abadan and discussed the issues related to the ceasefire with UNIIMOG officers. He also reviewed the activities of the U.N. forces in the southern region. The 750-man UNIIMOG forces were stationed along Iran-Iraq border areas last August.

TEHRAN TIMES Previews New Cabinet

LD2407072389 Tehran IRNA in English 0708 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Tehran, July 24, IRNA—A daily paper Monday speculated on Majlis Speaker Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani cabinet if he is elected president.

THE TEHRAN TIMES, basing its report on unnamed informed sources, said Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the clear favorite in Friday's presidential elections, had asked politicians to suggest names for possible inclusion in his cabinet.

"Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani is a man of integrity and he always consults with all whether he agrees or not," one source said.

The four likely candidates for the new post of vice-president are Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, former Interior Minister Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri, and head of the Majlis Defence Committee Hojjat ol-Eslam Hasan Rohani.

"Observers... believe that the past experience of Musavi will surely be utilized in the future cabinet," the paper said that his name is also being mentioned for the post of foreign minister, a position he held before becoming prime minister. But it said former deputy foreign minister Mohamed Javad Larijani "may be the best choice for the post of foreign minister."

The Interior Ministry may remain under the control of Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Ali Akbar Mohtashami or may be handed over to Hojjat ol-Eslam Rohani.

Deputy Oil Minister Mohammad Nejad Hoseynian could replace Gholamreza Aqazadeh.

The Post, Telephone and Telegraph Minister Mohamad Gharazi is being mentioned as the future minister of commerce and the Defence Industries-Chief Akbar Torkan as the minister of industries.

Also possible is that if the defence and IRGC Ministries are merged Torkan could take over as minister.

The former Governor of Central Bank Mohsen Nurbakhsh who resigned due to illness and has now recovered is referred to as the minister of economics and finance.

The Ministry of Plan and Budget is said to be functioning under direct supervision of the president. Hojjat ol-Eslam Dorri Najafabadi who has played an active part in the Majlis Budget Committee is mentioned as the possible choices.

Emami-Kashani Delivers Friday Prayers Sermons

LD2107132189 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] On the threshold of the blessed festival of Ghadir, the day when the institution of the imamate and velayat [leadership and guardianship of the Muslims] emerged, our Muslim compatriots all over the country today held the political-religious rites of the Friday prayers.

The people of Tehran were present today at Tehran University and the adjacent streets to attend Friday prayers under the leadership of Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani.

Referring to next Friday when the presidential election and the referendum on constitutional amendments are to be held together, the acting Friday prayers leader of Tehran said in his sermons: The imam of ummah always told us that safeguarding the governing process is more important than the secondary pillars [foru'] of Islam.

The people of the world are watching Islamic Iran to see how our nation will participate next Friday in the presidential election and the referendum on the Constitution. Therefore, it is the duty of each and every citizen to contribute to a massive presence and to participate actively in the presidential election and the constitutional referendum in order to demonstrate respect and esteem for Islam, the Koran, independence, and freedom. As such, you must all accept the invitation of the leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran [IRI].

Stating that the constitutional amendments are in accordance with the blessed view of his eminence the Imam, may he be in paradise, and that His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the IRI has issued a charter on the constitutional referendum, Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani said: The constitutional amendments are the result of 10 years of experience. The main point of the changes involves clarifying and determining the management of the country as well as the duties and responsibilities of the three branches [of government]. Next Friday, once again, the massive and decisive presence of each citizen to participate in the presidential election and the referendum on the Constitution will astound Islam's enemies.

Concluding his second sermon, Hojjat-ol Eslam val-Moslemin Emami-Kashani referred to the crimes of the Jerusalem-occupying regime in Lebanon and the occupied territories of Palestine. He then asked Muslims all over the world not to keep silent even for a moment in the face of such crimes by the Zionist regime against the two victimized Muslim nations of Lebanon and Palestine. He called on them to demonstrate unity and solidarity and to defend the rights of the Muslim and struggling peoples of Lebanon and Palestine everywhere in the world.

Clarification of Leadershi

ip Powers Urged

LD2706061489 Tehran IR

NA in English 0610 GMT

27 Jun 89

[Text] Tehran, June 26, I

Review Council must look IRNA—The Constitutional

ership to clarify its limits a into the powers of the lead-

which the leadership woulc and specify an organ before

paper said Tuesday. ild be answerable to, a daily

The TEHRAN TIMES edit

more important than others litorial described the issue as

attention to the limits of rs and the council should "pay

leadership." of duties and powers of the

"Because if the limits of all

not fully specified, then th ll the organs and branches are

ignoring of the Constitution he possibility of violation or

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ten-year old Constitution a is to propose changes to the

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presidential election on Jul held on the same day as the

uly 28.

President 'Ali Khamene'i w

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Experts a day after the passi f members of the Assembly of

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The TEHRAN TIMES said

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paper noted. empowered to dismiss him, the

The paper defended its vie

ship's right to dissolve the view in support of the leader-

aged for the leadership by the Majlis—a new power envis-

by the review council.

"Experience of government

also Iran, has shown that ent in many countries including

necessity the dissolution of hat sometimes out of historic

and in many of the democr of the Majlis becomes essential

systems this is considered ocratic countries' constitutional

ed as something ordinary."

But the TEHRAN TIMES said the mechanism of dismissing the Majlis should be clarified and during the period when the country is without a Majlis the organ before which the executive branch would be responsible must be specified.

TEHRAN TIMES Comments on Leader's Powers

NC2606164689 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 21 Jun 89 p 2

[Editorial: "More Power to Leader To Settle National Problems"]

[Text] According to a recent decision of the Constitutional Revision Council's Commission for Leadership Issues, headed by Chief Justice Ayatollah Musavi-Ardabili, the nation's supreme leader will be invested with the authority to dissolve parliament under certain circumstances.

The decision has received a majority vote in the first debate over the issue focusing on the powers of the nation's leader.

The philosophy behind the investment of such powers in the leader has to be looked into against a backdrop of a modern approach to the issue of velayat-e faqih (guardianship or rule of the Muslim jurisprudent) as brought up by our late leader Imam Khomeyni. Indeed it was the imam who introduced this concept in a totally novel aspect to the theology centers in Iran and abroad.

According to this theory the guardian faqih (jurisprudent) who is referred to as leader in the Islamic Republic's Constitution, is the supreme authority in the Islamic state. In addition to powers stipulated for him in the Constitution, such as the declaration of peace or war, the leader may, under special conditions enjoy higher powers beyond the scope of those already confered upon him in the incumbent Constitution.

The late Imam Khomeyni's concept of the velayat-e faqih held the guardian faqih as the supreme authority enjoying absolute power in carrying his duties as head of the Islamic state. The late imam believed that the supreme leader was to be above the three branches of the government.

Such theoretical premises as proposed for the office of the leader in the Islamic Republic by the leader and founder of the Islamic Republic only reflects the subtlety and depth of his thoughts. He was well ahead of his time and did never mean to invest irresponsible power in the person of the leader. He only meant to think ahead on problems that might arise. In a hypothetical situation, for instance, if non-coordination of some sort emerges beween the legislative body and the leader, what authority should settle the difference?

In this assumption it is only logical that the most eligible authority to settle a national dispute of that caliber i.e. the leader, should be conferred with enough powers to prevent a national crisis.

It should not be overlooked that in fact all the three branches of power derive their legitimacy from the Constitution which upholds the office of vali-ye-faqih as the highest office in the land.

As for this new proposal of the Constitutional Revision Council's Commission for Leadership Issues, it should be noted that it will become law only after it wins the approval of the leader and gains the public vote in a national referendum. Thus it is that the country's Constitution maintains its own legitimacy in terms of its religious and popular nature.

Controversial Points in Constitution Discussed

NC0407104789 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Jun 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Past Experiences and Rewriting Constitution"]

[Text] The Constitutional Revision Council is at present busy making an intensive effort for the amendment of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic. So far what has been made public of the council's decisions is the elimination of the post of prime minister, and transferring full authority of the executive branch to the presidency. Even though the president will be chosen by direct vote of the people, however the Majlis (parliament) retains the right of questioning and even overthrowing the president by giving a vote of "no confidence." However, the fact is that the experts of the constitution have so far did not choose specifically between the "presidential" and the "parliamentary" systems. [sentence as published] What is clear is probably a combination of the two, something which in the long run will create problems for the system.

But the main topic of discussion in the past few days in Tehran's political circles was the right of dissolving the Majlis by the leadership—something which in the previous constitution was not among the powers of the leadership.

Experience of governing in many other nations, including also Iran, has shown that sometimes out of historic necessity the dissolution of the Majlis (or parliament) becomes essential and in many of the democratic countries' constitutional systems this is considered as something ordinary.

Two points which have not been clarified and which remain ambiguous are:
(a) What will be the mechanism of such a dissolution, and what period of time will the country be without a Majlis?
(b) In the period in which the country will be without a parliament, before which organ will the executive branch be responsible and answerable for its actions and doings?

Another more important issue which the Constitutional Revision Council should pay attention to is the limits of duties and powers of the leadership. Because if the limits of all the organs and branches are not fully specified, then the possibility of violation or ignoring of the Constitution will also be great. Especially it should be fully made clear before which organ the leader (or leadership) is responsible. On the basis of the previous Constitution only the Assembly of Experts has the right to choose the leader. Another point worth considering is that the Constitution is not written only on the basis of existing truths in society but the experiences of the past should also be taken into account by the experts.

Radio Program Examines Constitutional Reform

LD2007183789 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0900 GMT 20 Jul 89

[From the "In Line With the People, in Step With the Officials" phone-in program, with Hojjat-ol Eslam Musavi Kho'iniha, state prosecutor, and Hadi Khamene'i, Majlis deputy and member of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution; recorded]

[Excerpts] [Passage omitted] The imam of the ummah, may he be admitted to God's paradise, with the profound insight he had into all issues, as the leader and velayat-e faqih [chief jurisconsult] of the Islamic ummah, decided to appoint a Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, and he asked them to revise and reappraise the principles of the Constitution in various instances which he had delineated within a period of 2 months and to prepare the result of their investigation for a referendum after the approval of the leader. That Council, after holding 41 meetings, finally approved all necessary changes and amendments in 48 principles during its 38th to (?41st) sessions from 8-11 July of the current year.

In the name of God and with greetings to you dear listeners, we start the program "In Line With the People, in Step With the Officials," which from this week will be broadcast from 1230-1400 from the Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran. As you know, in this week's program we have with us Hojjat ol-Eslam Musavi Kho'iniha, the prosecutor general and member of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution. [passsage omited]

[Kho'iniha] In the executive branch, we had the problem of bipolarity. On the one hand, according to the original Constitution we have a president who is elected by the people and who, consequently, enjoys a very high position in society. When the people go to the ballot boxes and vote for a president who has the highest position next to the leader, naturally they expect much of him. They expect him to solve the problems and shortcomings. They regard the president at the head of national

administration in executive matters. However, when we looked into the Constitution, we noticed that the prerogatives and powers at the president's disposal are insufficient for him to satisfy the voters' demands.

In practice, the implementation of the executive affairs of the country are in the hands of the prime minister. The role of the president is merely to present a person as prime minister to the Majlis. Then, it is the prime minister who, with the approval of the president, presents the ministers to the Majlis and asks for a vote of confidence for them. From then on, it is the prime minister and the ministers who run the government and are in charge of executive affairs; and it may be said that from then on the president's hands are tied. At times, if he regards a minister as unsuitable he can dismiss him; but, we now that dismissal of individuals is not a proper method of executive control; we appoint certain individuals to various ministries, but when we noticed that he is not a good choice we dismiss him. The main thing is that he is chosen properly from the start. Therefore, we have a bipolarity. On the one hand, the president has responsibilities towards those who voted for him; but on the other hand his hands are tied and it is the prime minister who does all the work. However, the prime minister also lacks sufficient power. The prime minister, too, has to pay heed in many instances to the views of the president, both in the areas which had been defined by law as well as in those areas which had not been defined by law, but according to political and social custom, the president is the highest official and the prime minister can not ignore his views. Therefore, the prime minister, too, lacks power. [passage omitted]

As a result, one of the major problems in the executive affairs of the country was this bipolarity which had to be solved. Of course, all of the problems were not limited to this. We had many problems due to the war, but that has nothing to do with this discussion. Therefore, it can be said that the most important work which was done in the reappraisal of the Constitution was the solution of the problem of bipolarity in the executive. The leadership issue was very important to, but the issue which took up a great deal of the council for reappraisal's time was finding a solution to the problem associated with the executive. [passage omitted]

[Studio announcer] Dear listeners, as you were informed before the start of the program In Line With the People, in Step With the Officials, we have another dear guest in this program, Hojjat ol- Eslam Hadi Khamene'i [president Khamene'i's brother] Majlis deputy from Mashad and member of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution. He was not here at the beginning of the program, but now we are pleased to have him with us. Greetings to you, welcome to the program. Let me ask you something before we have the rest of our phone-in questions. Could you briefly explain to us the eight points which have been amended in the Constitution?

[Khamene'i] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Greetings to the dear listeners, and salutations and greetings to the great soul of our illustrious imam and the founder of world Islamic revolution. The eight points which were specified in the guidelines set for us by his holiness the imam—may be be admitted to God's paradise—are a number of points which, as the result of the practical experiences gained gradually, were clearly specified to be amended.

One of them is the reappraisal of some leadership issues. The main changes made in this regard and which I can briefly summarize is, first, the fact that leadership will not be in the form of a council; second, dropping the condition of the leader being a marja' [a source of emulation or a grand ayatollah]; and thrid, confining the process of selecting a leader to the Council of Experts. These were the main changes made in this issue; but, of course, there were some minor changes too.

The second issue concerns the executive, which was being investigated by committee No 2 in relation to the concentration is that the responsibility for the executive branch should be limited to one person, and all other officials of the country, all the judicial organizations, the inspectorates, Majlis deputies, the legislative branch as a whole, and the people may regard one person as responsible for the executive, and from the top to the bottom, responsibility should be divided into smaller responsibilities.

This has been done, and the responsibilites for that branch have been concentrated in the president as specified in the new principles or amendments.

Third, there have been similar changes in the judiciary, namely, concerning the issue of concentration. Responsibilities for this branch have been concentrted in one person known as the head of the judiciary who will be appointed by the leader.

Finally, there is the work of committee number four, which includes three or four other issues. One of these is the concentration of management and responsibilities at Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The supervisory council which existed in the past will not exist in the future, and the form of management will be changed. The type of parallel management which existed in the past will no longer exist. There will be one person in charge of Voice and Vision who will be appointed by the leader. Another point was the issue of how to go about introducing amendments to the Constitution. This was also studied and its methods were laid down in new principles. Another point concerned the number of Majlis deputies considering the growth in the country's population. That has also been clarified. Of course, I forgot about the first issue which was studied in the first committee, about the discernment of what is best. This was a new issue which came into being on the orders of his holiness the imam. At that time, its responsibility was limited to finding a solution for legislative matters in

cases when no agreements should be reached between the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the council of Guardians. Now the Expediency Discernment Council has another responsibility—namely, providing consultative views to the leadership. At first, this Assembly had a definite number of members; but in final reappraisal it was decided that this should change. It has a certain number of permanent members appointed by the leader, which at the moment is not clear to us in the Constitution. Eventually it will be made clear. There is also a number of replaceable members who are again appointed by the leader due to the needs which arise, both in issues needing consultation, or in solving the problems of the system, or in problems arising between the Council of Guardians and the Islamic Consultative Assembly. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mr Kho'iniha, one listener asked what is the relationship between the Council of Guardians and the Committee for Discerning Expediency for the System; could you please answer this question?

[Kho'iniha] The council of Guardians and the expediency discernment council have completely different functions. The Council of Guardians investigates the legislations of the Islamic Consultative Assembly, ensuring that they are not contrary to the shari'a and the constitution. It has some other duties, such as supervising elections and so forth. However, there were some instances, even during the lifetime of his holiness the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, that the Islamic Consultative Assembly regarded a law to be in the interest of the society and regard it as useful, and at times as necessary. However, the Council of Guardians believed that that law was contrary to shari'a principles or the Constitution; while the Majlis insisted that that law was in the interest of the society.

Under those circumstances we were faced with a dead end in the past, and his holiness the imam ordered that an assembly should be formed in the name of the Expediency Discernment Council, so that if that Council decided that a certain law was necessary for the society—which is of course of a temporary nature—[the law is enforced while the expediency or necessity exists] that law would be implemented with the approval of the Council, even if in some cases it is contrary to the primary laws of the shari'a. Therefore, the work of the Council of Guardians is one stage before the work of the Expediency Discernment Council. In those cases where no agreement could be reached between the Islamic Consultative Assembly and the Council of Guardians, the Expediency Discernment Council would solve the problem whenever it found it necessary and would approve the law. In addition to that, it performs a consultative function for the leader, while the Council of Guardians has no such function. In solving the system's problems, whenever the leader refers some cases to it, the Expediency Council will come up with a decision; while the Council of Guardians has no such function. The Expediency Council has a very extensive role and it is something we badly needed in our Constitution. His holiness the imam during his lifetime ordered this to come into being, and in practice it was shown that the Expediency Council could be very useful and could solve many problems; therefore it is included in the amendments to the Constitution. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] Mr Kho'iniha, could you please make some remarks about the participation of the people in the elections?

[Kho'iniha] There is no doubt that participation in the referendum on constitutional amendments, as well as in the presidential elections, is a religious duty for all those who according to the law are entitled to vote. Not voting and not taking part in the constitutional referendum would be tantamount to indifference toward the fate of Islam, toward the revolution, toward the blood of martyrs, and toward the legacy which his holiness the imam left us, who endeavored throughout his life to implement Islam, to bring it into fruition, to the establishment of the Islamic Republic. The main wish of the imam was that the sapling which he had planted would become, God willing, stronger and sturdier day by day, so that the people would receive greater fruit from it. I believe that all those who have been mourning the demise of the imam regard it as their duty to participate. I am sure that the soul of his holiness the imam, may he be admitted to God's paradise, is watching us and is looking to see how the people will treat the Islamic Republic which he left behind as his legacy, and how they support it. This is something everyone knows, and I am merely reminding them that every government is either dependent upon the people of that country or upon foreign powers. If we desert our government, if we do not support it, if people become indifferent and leave the stage, they should be certain that their government will become a government dependent upon outsiders.

Governments are only independent if they rest on the shoulders of the people and feel the support of the people, in the same way that so far the Islamic Republic has remained independent and has stood on its own feet. I need not remind the hezbollahi ummah of these points; they know them very well and they even teach them to us. I am addressing the opponents, the nationalists, those who in line and in keeping with foreign opponents, have pinned their hopes on the era after the passing of the imam. But fortunately the unexpected presence of the people turned all the hopes of the enemies into despair.

I am addressing them and I tell them that if they are against this government and these officials... [changes thought] You claim that you are nationalists, meaning that you have faith in this country and in this nation. If you wish this nation and this country to remain independent, you should come and participate, as well. do not imagine that your nonparticipation in the referendum on the constitutional amendments and in presidential elections would disrupt the system of the country. Your indifference and your lack of support [changes

thought], although you are insignificant and have no influence, yet I believe it would be a pity even for this small number to be cut off from this limitless ocean of our society and our nation, to be destroyed and to be eliminated. You, too, should come and take part in this referendum. The people will forgive your past; they will welcome you, provided that you remain faithful to the country, to the nation and to the principles of the revolution.

If you are Muslims, you will remain faithful to Islam. And if you are not Muslims, at least be faithful to this nationality of which you speak and to this country. I hope that all the people and all those who are legally eligible to take part in the elections, will go to the ballot boxes and will become a source of joy to the spirit of our illustrious imam and the spirits of all the martyrs and will be a source of the despair of our enemies, God willing.

TEHRAN TIMES on Benefits of Advisory Board

NC2706104489 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 24 Jun 89 p 2

[Editorial: "Imam's Son Can Be Best as Political Adviser to Leader"]

[Text] A new wind seems to have blown over the nation following the selection of Ayatollah Khamene'i as the new leader of the Islamic Republic. Iran has indeed stepped into a new era, based on the principles and guidelines set by its late leader Imam Khomeyni. Political initiatives and economic reconstruction, it goes without saying, are the main elements needed for setting a sound strategy in the years to come. Economic problems facing this country are very serious indeed, but the nation enjoys all the resources needed to address them. One way to a solution is for the new leader to adopt effective, rational economic measures based on realistic and down-to-earth approaches free of sloganeering the propaganda. To do this, it will be necessary to utilize the talents of those who have gained experience in the last ten years and this certainly can be very helpful.

In the political field too, the benefits to be derived from an efficient team of advisors to leaders cannot be overemphasized. The new leadership should have an in-depth knowledge of domestic, as well as foreign, political situations and developments. To derive benefit from such a scheme the leadership can have a board of advisors who can usefully study and analyze events as they unravel both outside and inside the country.

A prime candidate to be on and perhaps head such an advisory board can be Ahmad Khomeyni, son of Imam Khomeyni. He has been close to the late leader for most of his life, and, thus, is intimately familiar with the late imam's political thinking and reactions.

This will surely enable the leader Ayatollah Khamene'i, who himself has been a very close aide and disciple of the Imam, not lose sight ever of the late Imam's trend of thought and action. The setting up of such an advisory body with Hojjat ol-Eslam Ahmad Khomeyni on it, can enhance efforts to keep the country on the track of the trail blazed by Imam Khomeyni.

Some factions from inside, and some from out-side the country, knowingly or unknowingly, are trying to undermine the solidarity now observed in the system and the nation in general. But in spite of them the system is moving with confidence and determination towards a sound managerial plan. This movement will gain in momentum with the election of Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani as the president.

Ayatollah Khamene'i and Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani share clear and profound viewpoints on ways to resolve current economic problems.

Naturally then the second decade of the revolution is going to provide better conditions for expanding economic, social and cultural horizons of the Islamic Republic. Therefore, with the use of experienced aides in different areas the leadership can most definitely speed up the realization of the divine goals of the Islamic Revolution.

Freedom Movement Views Presidential Elections

NC0407105889 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 28 Jun 89 p 1

[Excerpts] Tehran—Candidates for the upcoming presidential elections will be registered by the Interior Ministry for five days starting June 28 (today), the Interior Ministry said in an announcement.

The fifth presidential elections of the Islamic Republic and a national referendum for constitutional amendments will be held concurrently on July 28, the statement said.

Meanwhile, an official of the Interior Ministry told the TEHRAN TIMES that the names of presidential candidates will be sent for approval to the council of guardians. [passage omitted]

In other developments, Dr Ebrahim Yazdi, one of the members of the Iran Freedom Movement and former foreign minister of the provisional revolutionary government, said concerning participation of the movement's candidates in presidential elections: "So far the movement has not taken any decisions in this regard. In case of decision on participation, the candidates will register with the elections headquarters."

ETTELA'AT Interviews Prime Minister Musavi

NC1207154089 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
5 Jul 89 pp 7, 18

[Text] Eng Mir Hoseyn Musavi, prime minister and member of the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, gave an interview to our correspondent yesterday morning. He stated his views on the decisions adopted by the council concerning centralization in the executive branch, the dissolution of the post of prime minister, and the presidential elections.

[Correspondent] What is your opinion on the dissolution of the post of prime minister, which was approved by the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution, and what phases did the issue go through before its final approval?

[Musavi] Much was said in the press and mass media on the need for the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution. Following that, the imam, may his soul be sanctified, ordered that a group be formed to study this issue. Among the issues propounded by the imam was that of the centralization of powers in the executive branch, because the need for this had been felt repeatedly during recent years. At the onset of the revolution, measures to prevent dictatorship and arbitrariness were envisioned for the system of the Islamic Republic, and appropriate measures for attaining goals and ideals were specified in the Constitution. However, practical experience in recent years showed that, while it had many strong points, the executive branch also had weak points. But this was inevitable, because at the onset of the revolution we did not follow any pattern when compiling our system, seeking always to base it on our own historic experiences and the values in which we believed.

Among the apparent weaknesses was that the duties of the president and the prime minister duplicated and interfered with each other. This led to several problems such as in selecting ministers and presenting them to the Majlis and in policy-making. On the one hand, the president was elected by the vote of the vast majority, and in his oath to the Majlis promised to carry out the duties vested in him by the Constitution. On the other hand the prime minister also—on the basis of Article 134 of the Constitution and some other articles—had certain duties to carry out. They held these duties in common in various fields, and this led to practical problems. Therefore, one of the points in the letter by Imam Khomeyni—who also sometimes attempted to solve these problems—to the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution concerned the issue of centralization in the executive branch.

In the beginning, several proposals were made by the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution for overcoming this problem. After studying these proposals, we saw they all revolved around similar ideas. One such idea was that the position of the prime minister be strengthened and that the position of the president be omitted or weakened. Another solution was that the present situation be slightly amended. The third solution was that the position of the president be strengthened.

At that point I was among those who believed that the position of the prime minister should be further strengthened, and my reasoning was that with a prime ministerial system we will not fear the possibility of a dictatorship or arbitrariness for various reasons stated at the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution. However, the issue propounded by the Council was that the president relies on the people's direct vote, that with a president the system would enjoy more stability, and that a presidential system will have many and spectacular benefits. Fortunately, the Council concluded in its assembly that the president will be responsible to the leader and the Majlis, in addition to being responsible to the people, as stated in the current Constitution.

As far as the duties of the president vis-a-vis the Majlis are concerned, we have two relatively detailed articles in the Constitution now being compiled which explain the mode of handling the president's responsibilities and the type of responsibilities he has concerning the Majlis. Therefore, the new method and the path that the Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution has adopted will, while preventing any temptation regarding power in the future, also yield the benefits of a stable government, particularly when we bear in mind the fact that each and every one of the ministers will have to gain the Majlis' vote of confidence and that the ministers can also be questioned or interpellated, then I believe that the solution that we have now reached is the best and most favorable one. At the same time I stress that after the Council clarified the president's responsibilities to the nation, the leadership, and the Majlis, efforts were also made to solve some of the problems and faults that existed within the Executive Branch because of former problems. As an example I can refer to the issue of combining the planning and budget establishment and the organization for employment and administrative affairs to the president in order to be able to put things in order. This is because planning and budget organizations throughout the world are always establishments that are next to the head of the Executive Branch. The same applies to the state organization for employment and administrative affairs. Actually, these two are the arms or wings which enable the head of the executive branch to fly. Without them many problems are created.

In the past, and when the issue of separating these organizations from the prime minister was propounded in the Majlis and in other places, I discussed the unfavorable effects that this would have on the country's destiny. I believe that in the past the separation of the planning and budget organizations from the Prime Ministry brought much harm to the country.

Now, thank God, this issue has been resolved. There are only a few points, such as the approval of the articles which the Majlis can send to its committees for approval.

In view of the fact that there are hundreds of organizations and companies under the aegis of the government, this article can be a development and can facilitiate things.

Another very important article on which we formerly faced a problem is that it has been foreseen that the government can grant special authority to the councils and committees that it forms and that the decisions these adopt will be ready for implementation once approved by the president.

We did not have this in the past. For example, an agricultural council for coordinating matters in agriculture was created. Many problems, which the government was unable to deal with because of its tight schedule, were brought up at this council and discussed. Whatever decision it adopted was sent to the cabinet for approval. This led to slowness and slackening in affairs. This is one of the very important issues, and the current Constitution says that the councils and committees do not have the right to make decisions independently or to approve them. In the new articles of the Constitution, the government can grant its committees special authority. For this reason, I picture the future government as one in which the president will have much stronger authority than the present prime minister and president and a government in which the president's executive power and coordination will be extremely high. It will be a government in which the president and cabinet will be responsible to the leadership, the Majlis, and the people. This is why there are no fears of any kind of arbitrariness in it.

Therefore, I think that there is room for being optimistic that this form of government can move more strongly toward fulfilling the Islamic revolution's ideals. Thus one can say that now that the post of prime minister has been omitted from the Constitution, I am actually the last prime minister of Iran and that from now on our country will be entering a new phase which, God willing, will progress under the president's supervision. We believe that the Constitution being compiled is more compatible with our needs and God willing, it will help the country to move forward in a much better way.

[Correspondent] Do you think centralizing powers in the president is enough to resolve the executive problems?

[Musavi] As regards its setup, the addendum to the Constitution is stronger than the present law we are following, in resolving the country's difficulties. It does not have the contradictions present in the current Constitution. There is no interference in tasks, and the government will certainly enjoy more stability with the immense executive authority at its disposal. You can imagine a president who has greater power and no interference and also enjoys the vote of the people. For example, despite the great and exceptional coordination among the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the actual and decisive focal point of various issues, of domestic and foreign policy, became more and more blurred. However, from now on, the president will have the necessary power and authority and will be able to make decisions in relevant fields. I imagine that the future government will be a stronger one. I hope God willing, it will be successful.

[Correspondent] In your opinion, what is the leadership's role in guaranteeing the future government's success?

[Musavi] In the previous period of His Eminence the Imam, may God be pleased with him, which was an exceptional and historical period, His Eminence completely delineated how the system was to act. The government also enjoyed the support of the leadership. Naturally the government which will be set up in the future will also enjoy the leadership's similar support and backing. This will result in strengthening the government in the face of problems.

It may be said here that the leadership has deep roots in the hearts and minds of the people and is linked to their great strength, which is our real armor. In fact, it is the leadership that mobilizes this great force to the government and reminds them that they should assist this executive arm of the system in the difficult circumstances of their struggle in the world. In the future as well, I can envision that the preservation of the actual revolutionary line by the leadership of the revolution and the Islamic Republic will naturally decisively affect all government programs. In any case, the leadership's position will, God willing, be that of a supporter for the proper actions of the government in accordance with the desires and the attainment of their aspirations as has been incorporated in the Constitution.

[Correspondent] In the political and economic fields, you had special ideas which you considered within the scope of a prime minister's duties. Do you consider it necessary to follow these up in the future, and will you do this youself?

[Musavi] What we have learned from Islam and from His Eminence the imam is that every muslim and every revolutionary individual is beholden to pursue the ideals of the revolution under all circumstances. Naturally, the experience I have gleaned over the years will be placed at the disposal of the government and president in whatever form they should deem necessary.

We have a very free and flourishing system. It is natural that in our society, just as has been perceived in recent years, there should be various debates on economic and political issues. It has been proven that these debates can be pursued under the aegis of the strong Islamic and national objectives and naturally should pertain to miscellaneous issues. Various solutions are suggested by various individuals. It would not be correct to say that one opinion is absolutely right and that no other opinion should be aired in society.

On the contrary, it would be best to use legal means to find the best person, one who has the power to follow up on and to implement these solutions and then to recognize him officially. We can simultaneously present our ideas to the government and the people with the idea of helping the government progress so that the ideals stipulated in the Constitution might be attained. In any case, I will be on the government's side, and I hope that the future government will adopt ideas in accordance with the line of the Imam and take firm steps in this direction. Thus, God willing, an atmosphere may be created in which various opinions can be aired and suggestions presented so that the best ones might be utilized to further the revolution's objectives.

This is what we expect from all—from the media, the government, and all the departments. They have acquitted themselves well so far, and it will be the same in the future.

[Correspondent] At present all society has a unanimous viewpoint concerning ideas and aspirations, and there is hardly anyone who does not believe in these. If there were a difference of opinion regarding the means for attaining these ideals, in your opinion how could conditions be created which would be conducive to the greater participation of the people and the various schools of thought in society for furthering these ideas?

[Musavi] First of all, ideas and thoughts in society should be assessed in order to gauge to what extent they are ingrained in the people—this includes wishes, aspirations, their capacity, and the level of prominence. I think that the Imam has already compiled the guidelines necessary for the country's progress and the path which the system should tread.

As has been stated in the political [illegible] Imam, may his soul be sanctified, his eminence relied on social justice and support of the oppressed. We have no doubt that these lines will be followed in the future as well. We should all preserve these lines and make efforts so that they remain alive and durable. We should continue to repeat the line of the imam and its dimensions so that the system will tread the correct path. We should analyze and prove that it is possible to implement those ideals and aspirations mentioned by the imam in his speeches and in his will, especially in his important messages regarding the Hajj and other issues.

Once this mentality is created in society, which believes that social justice and defense of the interests of the oppressed in the world and in the country are possible, then the establishment of an Islamic government with all its dimensions will not be an unattainable phenomenon. We can forge ahead with a little progress. I also think that once the feeling prevails in society that the above are not unattainable, it will be reflected in the same manner in the government, the Majlis, and the executive machinery. God willing, the entire system will then be directed toward safeguarding and preserving this path. This is our duty.

It is our duty to insist on the same path and values propounded by the leader of the revolution. We should analyze the various aspects of these messages in society and display how they can be implemented while supporting the officials of the system. I wish to especially stress that in a system with international objectives, wider and more extensive support of its official organizations and installations is necessary so that it will be able to perform the tasks delegated to it and not experience any weakness. This is where the strength of the official organizations and the government machinery is located.

[Correspondent] At a time when many foreign plots exist against our revolution and system, how do you think the people's support for the system should be continued and strengthened?

[Musavi] The people should be sincere and see the outcome of the government's efforts. On the basis of our past experience, there were times when we stated that we are faithful to the slogans that Islam and the imam propound, and the people saw that we also strove toward this end. Sometimes they felt that for various reasons the government was unable to achieve an objective, but the fact is that the mere effort that was being made encouraged the people. The people want the system to move in the correct direction and want the system in general to make an effort. A distraction from the direction toward which the efforts are aimed can disappoint the people as well if they feel that the objectives for which they gave their lives are not being pursued. It is then that the people will not be present on the scene.

The people displayed this fact during the burial of the sacred body of the imam. The imam had not come to bring bread and melons to the people, even though in a revolutionary system comfort [refah] is logically envisioned in the future—there is no doubt about this. But in his movement, the imam propounded lines and principles behind which the system moved. The people perceived the sincerity in this, and they focused their efforts on achieving their own identity. This is why the demise of such a leader plunged them into mourning.

The situation will be the same in the future too. Thinking that a government might come to power which would provide an illogical level of comfort within a few days is an injustice to that government. The important thing is that the future government stays precisely faithful to the slogans over which this revolution was able to win. Revolutionary slogans in our foreign and domestic policies, binding our fate with the fate of all revolutionary nations, defending the oppressed, attaching importance to the people's general movements, and so on are all

things which, if perceived by the people, will, I think, enable them to remain on the scene. We hope that, God willing, this is what will happen.

The imam was carrying out a task on his own which should now be carried out by the entire nation after his demise.

This is an indisputable fact. In other words, we should do something in order to embed these ideals so deeply in the minds of the people that they will be determined to continue on that path. I think that part of the vaccuum that has been created can be filled if this national and general determination is instilled in the people. The danger is if this determination is torn into pieces. We should maintain this determination and rally around each other. There is no reason why we should not. Thanks to the presence of the imam and his prudence, we have left behind us many crises, hardships, and basic threats against the Islamic revolution. We have been saved from many dangers, and the path before us and the vicissitudes and threats that lie in wait for us cannot be compared with what we faced on 11 February 1978. All these give us hope that God willing, with the help of the people and with the unity of all forces, the imam's line will be kept alive and will continue. I strongly emphasize the need to maintain unity.

I too do not intend to withdraw and, God forbid, to be considered guilty of ingratitude. As I have stated, I will be at the service of the government.

Another point which the brothers should bear in mind is that our dear leader feels committed to the imam's line and to continuing his movement. He has emphasized these points in his recent remarks and statements, and we believe that the leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is in fact the leadership of the entire Islamic revolution of the world, will continue this line strongly.

[Correspondent] What is your view of the presidential election candidates?

[Musavi] I do not have a complete list of all those who have registered as candidates for the presidential elections. But on the whole, I believe that the people will elect the best person. A point I should stress here is that at the revolution's onset, our decisions had not been institutionalized. In other words they were completely individual in character. Now the executive system has mellowed relatively, and if a strong political figure who is aware of the country's problems is placed at the head of the Executive Branch, this branch can then solve problems resolutely. I am extremely optimistic about this.

[Correspondent] How do you assess the 8-year record of your government?

[Musavi] We were a drop in the ocean of people. We moved and strove behind our leader in order to carry out a duty that had been placed on our shoulders. I am not the one to judge this record. The people should be the judge, and, moreover, God should be the judge. We hope that we had his blessings. We tried under all circumstances to carry out our religious and national duties. God willing, our intentions were sincere in so doing.

[Correspondent] What are the last steps that have been taken for the elections and the referendum on the Constitution?

[Musavi] The preparations for the elections have been made, and things are progressing favorably. As for the steps taken, the date of the elections was moved up 20 days.

The Council for the Reappraisal of the Constitution is in the last phases of studying the Constitution. Currently, discussions are concentrated on the issues of leadership and the Expediency Discernment Council. I think that these discussions will end in a couple of days. Of course, a third reading will remain, and the preparations for this reading have been made. I think that the Constitution will be published for the public within the next 10 days. With the steps taken by the respectable Council of Guardians and the officials of the Interior Ministry, the elections will take place on the date set. Naturally, after the elections, the new cabinet will be formed more easily. In the new Constitution, the president is the head of the cabinet, and he will represent the ministers directly. There will be no problem as far as this is concerned. The president himself will not need the Majlis's vote of confident. All these will, God willing, facilitate the formation of the government. We hope to have a new government by the end of Mordad [month ending 22 August] this year.

[Correspondent] What is your opinion of the people's role in the elections?

[Musavi] Participating in political destiny is the basic religious duty of us all. Our country's grandeur is contingent on the all-aspected presence of the people. One of the extremely effective and important scenes where the people should be present is during the referendum on the Constitution and the presidential elections. The main thing is the people's participation, and whatever view the people have, they should participate in these. This presence will help the revolution to continue. I know that with the great alertness that the people have shown, they have disappointed the enemies of the revolution. We have felt this very strongly during the past 24-25 days [since Khomeyni's death]. Therefore, the people will display their all-aspected presence with the same fervor and alertness.

Pakistan

Iran's Velayati Meets Leaders, Afghan Rebels

LD2107112189 Tehran IRNA in English 1108 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad July 21, IRNA—Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati left for Tehran today at the conclusion of his two-day official visit. During his stay in Islamabad and Lahore he conferred with Pakistani President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, Premier Benazir Bhutto, Foreign Minister Sahabzadah Yaqub Khan and with various Afghan mujahidin leaders.

At a brief interview at the airport before boarding a flight back home, Dr Velayati said that he had discussed various topics of common interest with Pakistani officials including the Afghan crisis and other international and regional issues.

He said the current developments in Afghanistan call for a closer interface between Iran and Pakistan, and closer relations with the leaders of the mujahidin, both the Peshawar based seven-party alliance and the Iran based eight-party coalition.

Velayati said during June and July various contacts had been made between Iranian, Soviet and Pakistani officials, and with leaders of the Afghan mujahidin in Tehran and Islamabad in relation with the situation Afghanistan. [sentence as received] He said it was decided that the three countries continue their talks in the future.

The Iranian foreign minister said a group of Pakistani officials as well mujahidin leaders are to visit Tehran shortly for consultation with the Iranian officials.

Following the Russian troop withdrawal last February, some Pashto-speaking parties, ignoring the rights of other ethnic groups which make up Afghanistan, hastily set up a so-called interim government which as predicted has proved a complete failure.

Iran, which always stressed on Afghan unity is trying to bring the various mujahidin groups on a common platform to solve the present crisis, and help usher in a popular broad-based rule.

On Thursday, Velayati had a meeting with the Pakistani prime minister in Lahore, where he stressed on the Afghan's right to self-determination and recommended that the neighboring countries of Afghanistan do whatever they can to ensure that a Muslim and independent government comes to power in that landlocked country.

He also said certain "foreign enemies of the Afghan people" are trying to meddle between the struggling Muslims and Kabul's Marxist regime not with the idea of reconciling them but for the purpose of leading the struggle of the mujahidin away from its true goals which situation, he cautioned, warrants full alterness by Afghan Muslims.

Mrs Bhutto replied, she was convinced that the Islamic Republic of Iran is firm on its position with respect to Afghanistan. She said Pakistan, too, is for an "Islamic and independent Afghanistan," and added that Iran-Pakistan cooperation in various areas will help promote regional security.

The rift among mujahidin groups, has encouraged total outsiders like the Saudi Arabian regime and other reactionaries who on behalf of the United States are scheming to worsen the Afghan crisis.

Velayati also reviewed the latest situation in Afghanistan in separate meetings with Benan Swan [name as received] advisor to the UN secretary general and several leaders of Afghan mujahidin in Islamabad before his departure to Tehran Friday.

Leader of Hezb-e Mujahidin Milli of Afghanistan, Ahmad Gaylani, presented Velayati a report on the latest situation. Among other prominent Afghan figures who conferred with the Iranian foreign minister Friday were representatives of the Nasr organization Dr Taleb and Shafaq [name as received], and leader of Islamic Movement in Afghanistan Asef Mohseni.

During his meetings, Velayati reminded of the need for solidarity between the 8-party and 7-party coalition groups, which represent the two main ethnic divisions in Afghanistan.

Velayati also held separate meetings yesterday evening in the Pakistani capital with various other Afghan leaders including Sebghatullah Mojadeddi, Burhanuddin Rabbani, Qazi Mohammad Amin, and Mawlawi Rafiullah al-Mu'azin.

Mojadeddi appreciated Iran's help to struggling Afghans, while Mawlawi al-Mu'azin expressed hope that the recently formed alliance between the eight-party and four independent groups might have offered a model for the unity and solidarity of all struggling groups in Afghanistan.

Mawlawi al-Mu'azin heads the Islamic Revolution Movement of Afghanistan, one of the four independent groups which earlier this month formed a Jihad Shura (council) with the Iran-based eight-party coalition.

The Mawlawi along with several other Afghan leaders was in Tehran earlier this month to attend the mourning ceremony for the great leader of the Islamic revolution, Imam Khomeyni.

Agreement To Aid Mujahidin

BK2107122489 Hong Kong AFP in English 1157 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] Islamabad, July 21 (AFP)—Iran and Pakistan have agreed to renew efforts to boost the power and credibility of the mujahidin interim government and broaden its base, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan said Friday.

"We will continue our mutual consultations to broaden the base of the existing provisional government," headquartered in Pakistan, he said, adding that with the inclusion of the eight mujahidin groups based in Iran the govenment would "carry even greater weight and credibility."

The eight Shi'ite groups have boycotted the interim government since it was created in late February after the Pakistan-based seven-party Sunni alliance did not give them the ministerial posts they wanted. Four ministries have been left vacant for them.

Mr. Yaqub Khan said he hoped the two groups would soon be reconciled and that the inclusion of the Shi'ite groups in the interim government would "be achieved before too long."

His comments came after he held talks Thursday with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati, who made an unannounced one-day visit here, his second in a month.

Speaking before his departure for Teheran Mr. Velayati said he also met with President Ghulam Ishaq Khan and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to discuss bilateral relations, international affairs and regional issues focusing on the Afghan problem, describing the talks as "fruitful and constructive."

He said both countries had been "very active on the Afghanistan question during the past few months," and they would pursue a "more coordinated" approach towards finding a solution.

"We will continue our contacts with our brothers in Pakistan and also with mujahidin," to achieve a negotiated solution, he added.

Officials said the talks were marked by "a complete identity of views."

The visit follows Ms Bhutto's recent call for a peaceful solution to the 10-year conflict.

Neither country recognises the interim government, but both have provided support for the mujahidin.

Pakistan has called for the replacement of President Najibullah's government in Kabul with a government of neutral technocrats.

Yaqub Khan Leaves for Discussions in Delhi

BK2407082289 Islamabad Overseas Service in English 0800 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] The foreign minister, Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, has gone to New delhi on a 2-day visit to India. His visit is part of the consultations Pakistan has been holding with SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] member states to seek solutions to various problems confronting the organization. Pakistan feels that the seventh session of the SAARC Council of Ministers is held soon so that the organization is put on wheels at the earliest. [sentence as heard] Sahabzada Yaqub Khan visited Nepal and Sri Lanka recently.

Hyderabad Situation Claimed Under Control

BK2107153489 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 21 Jul 89

[Text] The additional commissioner of Hyderabad told newsmen in Hyderabad today that the overall situation in Hyderabad and Latifabad during the last 24 hours was under control. However, nine persons were injured in a few untoward incidents. He said so far 21 persons have been arrested in connection with the disturbances and efforts are continuing to nab other culprits. The additional commissioner said that in future prominent personalities will accompany the law enforcement agencies during search operations.

Press Note Issued on Student Killing in Dadu

BK2207024889 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] A press note issued last night by the District Magistrate of Dadu says a person belonging to a student organization was shot dead in the Sawan police station area yesterday. The case has been registered and three persons belonging to another student union have been arrested.

Former Governor Arrested for Murder of Shi'ite

BK2207160089 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Text] The Peshawar High Court today rejected the appeal for bail before arrest made by [former Northwest Frontier Province governor] Lieutenant General (Rtd) Fazle Haq in the case of the murder of the chief of the Tehrik-i Nifaz-i Fiqah-Jafria [Shi'ite religious organization], 'Allamah Arif al-Hussaini. The appeal for bail was heard by the Peshawar High Court chief justice, Mr Justice Sardar Fakhr Alam. S.M. Zafar, Barrister Zahurul Haq, Mian Burhanuddin, and Tariq Pervez appeared at the court on behalf of the petitioner, while the prosecution was represented by Deputy Attorney General Asif Jan and Assistant Advocate General Hamid Sayyed Malik.

Lt Gen (Rtd) Fazle Haq was arrested after the appeal for bail before arrest was rejected by the court.

U.S. Said Knew Beforehand of Ziaul Haq's Death

WA2407163589 London AL-TADAMUN in Arabic 10 Jul 89 p 6

[Text] The United States recently sent Federal Bureau of Investigation [FBI] agents to Pakistan to confirm the truth of the report that the Pakistani Government had issued on the incident of the plane crash that ended the lives of the late General Mohammad Ziaul Haq and the American ambassador in Islamabad.

The U.S. State Department prevented FBI agents last year from investigating the incident, saying that "such a report may undermine the stability of Pakistan."

The FBI agents' arrival comes at a time when a rumor is circulating in Islamabad indicating that the previous U.S. Administration had had previous knowledge of the incident, that it had learned more of the details later on, and that it had maintained silence in order to facilitate the elections and until a new government had come to power.

Sri Lanka

Split in LTTE; Prabhakaran Death Reported

Prabhakaran 'Injured'

BK2307125689 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] There is a total split in the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leadership following serious differences among them. The deputy chief of the LTTE, Mahattaya, has declared himself as the LTTE chief following a shoot-out in Vavuniya District.

Reports from Trincomalee say that the LTTE leader, Prabhakaran, has been seriously injured in the shoot-out and his whereabouts are not known.

Some of the hardcore LTTE cadre, who recently surrendered to the PKF [Peacekeeping Force], have also confessed that there has been differences of opinion among the LTTE leadership on the talks with the Sri Lankan Government and the assassination of Tamil leaders—Mr Amirthalingam and Mr Yogeswaran.

Death, Party Split Denied

BK2307160589 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] Following a split in the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] leadership, the deputy chief of the LTTE, Mahattaya, has declared himself as the LTTE chief. Reports from Trincomalee say the LTTE leader Prabhakaran's whereabouts are not known.

One report, quoting the chief minister of Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, says that Prabhakaran was killed in a shoot out and his body is being kept at Anandapuliakulam, about 24 kilometers from Vavuniya, in a village deep inside the jungle.

Some of the hardcore LTTE cadre who recently surrendered to the PKF [Peacekeeping Force] have also confessed that there have been differences of opinion among the LTTE leadership on the talks with the Sri Lanka Government and the assassination of Tamil leaders Mr Amirthalingam and Mr Yogeswaran.

Meanwhile, a spokesman of the LTTE in Colombo denied the reports about the split in LTTE as well as about the shoot out or killing of Prabhakaran.

2 Factions Reportedly Fighting

BK2407075389 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0730 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] There are reports of continued fighting between the Prabhakaran faction and the Mahattaya faction of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE] in the Vavuniya jungles of the Northeastern Province of Sri Lanka.

Sounds of gunfire could be heard in the vicinity of the jungles, confirming the ongoing fight between the two groups which have fallen apart ideologically. LTTE sources in the province have now confirmed the clashes but claimed that these were not big enough to claim the life of its leader, Prabhakaran. Observers in Trincomalee however feel that the two groups have totally fallen apart, with the Prabhakaran faction advocating a policy of getting along with India to find a solution to the problem and the Mahattaya faction demanding negotiations with the Sri Lankan Government only.

Today, the overall force commander of the Peacekeeping Force, Lieutenant General Kalkat, called on the chief minister of the Northeastern Province, Mr Varadaraja Perumal, in Trincomalee and was with him for about an hour.

Minister Reports Prabhakaran Death

BK2407090489 Delhi Domestic Service in Hindi 0849 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] Agency reports, quoting Sri Lankan Agriculture Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, say that Prabhakaran, the leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam [LTTE], has been killed. Athulathmudali disclosed this during a meeting with foreign news correspondents in Colombo today. Official sources, quoting monitored LTTE radio messages, said that Prabhakaran was killed his by close associate, Mahattaya, during a scuffle between them.

Foreign Minister Speaks on Emergency Resolution
BK2307091589 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0651 GMT 23 Jul 89

["Sri Lanka: Do Undergrads Need Bombs and Detonators To Get Their Degrees? by Ranjan Wijeratne"—LANKAPUVATH headline; "OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, July 22 (LANKAPUVATH)—Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of State for Defence Ranjan Wijeratne, replying in the emergency extension debate in parliament yesterday, said that during the past 30 days emergency powers were used sparingly by the security forces except for a few excesses. Mrs Bandaranaike, who has been a prime minister, will understand that when an emergency is imposed there are bound to be a few excesses, states today's DAILY NEWS.

Mr Wijeratne said SLFP [Sri Lanka Freedom Party] members phoned me on certain matters. I immediately checked up and phoned back. I will safeguard human rights. Assurance has been given to the committee on human rights in parliament even before the emergency was imposed.

We are here to safeguard the lives of our people. It was with the greatest reluctance that the president agreed to impose an emergency.

We wanted to make certain amendments to the Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) but the opposition was not in favour. They had certain fears about it.

The situation was deteriorating and we could not turn a blind eye. This destabilising process started way back in the 1960s. The SLFP was the first victim. We then supported you.

As chairman of the Ceylon Planters' Association, I met Mrs Bandaranaike at Temple Tree and extended my fullest cooperation to crush the 1971 insurgency. I did this to safeguard democracy. The SLFP successfully crushed the insurgency and that is history now.

Insurgency is a continuing process. It's like leeches going underground during the dry season and coming out with the first rains. That's why it is called a terrorist movement.

Our former president Mr. J.R. Jayewardene felt that the jailed insurgents should be released then.

They contested the presidential and DDC [District Development Council] elections. Mr Jayewardene acted with democratic faith. We are not a killer party. We want to make people live more happily. These misguided youth think they can come to power by the power of the gun. They are using the underemployed and unemployed youth to gain their ends.

The northeast situation from 1983-1987 cost us Rupees 50 billion. This could have been utilised for development. More jobs could have been provided for youth. If we did not meet the situation in the North and East, our leaders would have been blamed for not facing the challenge.

Again the venom of subversion is spreading to subvert democracy for the second time. Unfortunately, the SLFP, being a democratic party, knows that we are at the receiving end. But, remember the aim of subversives is to vanquish all political parties and leaders and impose a dictatorial regime. They will do away with a democratic system nurtured by our people and politicians for over 40 years.

Are we going to run away from this situation? We all have our obligations by the people. They braved the threat of the gun and voted for us. All our lives are at stake. I assure you that I will provide protection to everyone. That is my duty.

An EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] member yesterday accused the government and left saying that they were not provided with adequate security and were being discriminated. They say we gave automatic weapons to the EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students].

EROS members told us that they lost 44 men since the Northeast Provincial Council was set up and requested automatic weapons. We will not discriminate against anybody. We thought the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force] was protecting the EPRLF. But, the IPKF cannot come to Colombo. If the EPRLF makes a request to the president or me we will consider. They don't have to run away.

With regard to the universities, there was a gentlemanly agreement between Mr Hameed and the university authorities. But what happened? University walls were being plastered over with posters, spreading virulent anti-government venom.

Universities are places of learning and not safe houses. A small section of students intimidate others through violence and force them to carry out nefarious activities.

The security forces recovered hand bombs, subversive literature, banners, blank identity cards, a pistol, detonators and cord wire and small explosives from the Jayewardenepura and the Colombo universities and the Maradana Technical College. Surely, these are not needed to get degrees.

There are 180 students now in custody. I am told by the security authorities that once interrogation is over the innocent would be released. Parents will be permitted to see them. There were 13 outsiders also in that batch. What were they doing there? They must be the 'gurus' who teach the students how to handle weapons and bombs.

I am happy that the EROS members came today. All important groups belonging to the body-politic of this country must be represented here.

The former Indian high commissioner Mr Dixit informed the president that they will withdraw the IPKF in batches.

When I went to Harare I discussed this matter with the Indian foreign minister who invited me to New Delhi to discuss the matter further. When I returned and informed the president he had already decided that the Indian troops should leave by July 29. The president felt that at a time when the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil EeLam] was discussing with the government it would be malefide for the Indian troops to attack the LTTE.

When it comes to our sovereignty, friendship apart we must safeguard it. We must be patient and solve this problem from speaking out and voicing our views. We may be a speck in the Indian Ocean but we have a moral right to safeguard our sovereignty and self respect.

Mr Anura Bandaranaike: In the event of the IPKF not going on July 29 what will you do?

Mr Wijeratne: The president as the commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces has said that if the Indian troops cannot leave by July 29 they should be confined to their camps. We must wait and see. We will keep you informed.

I agree with all that was said with regard to censorship. As Mr Athulathmudali said, censorship after some time gets out of hand. At least with regard to the foreign correspondents I will discuss with the officials and take appropriate steps.

Those responsible for the violence are not interested in bringing down the cost of living. If there is peace and we do not have to fritter away large sums of money on arms and ammunition we can give part of it to subsidise essential items. Part of it could be given for development. Politicians must come to an understanding that there will be stability.

I have given clear instructions to the forces not to be partial. Their job is to bring to book the gunmen. I have emphasised that the public should be given confidence and protection. I have confidence in the forces and the police. In the operations conducted on the universities there were no casualties.

The emergency resolution was passed with 123 voting for and 65 against.

18-Day-Old Press Censorship Lifted 24 Jul

BK2407070889 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0630 GMT 24 Jul 89

[Text] The Sri Lankan Government has lifted the 18-day-old censorship on all local and foreign news media. The foreign minister, Mr Ranjan Wijeratne, announced the government's decision to local newspaper editors in Colombo today. However, he warned them to be more responsible and to maintain self-censorship, especially on subversive activities.

The decision comes a day after the government's chief censor and chairman of the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation and Independent Television Network, Mr Thevis Guruge, was assassinated in Colombo.

Pakistan's Yaqub Khan Meets Premadasa, Wijeratne

BK2207113689 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 22 Jul 89

[Excerpts] Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan arrived in Sri Lanka today on a day's visit to the island. He was accompanied by the additional secretary to the minister of foreign affairs, Khalid Mahmud. The Pakistani minister met President Premadasa around 1130 at the presidential secretariat. Thereafter, he met his counterpart, Ranjan Wijeratne, and had talks at the Foreign Ministry office. [passage omitted]

Mr Yaqub Khan will leave for Karachi tonight.

Jayewardene: Accord With India 'Saved' Country

BK2307091989 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 23 Jul 89

[Text] The former Sri Lanka president, Mr J.R. Jayewardene, has said that the Indo-Sri Lankan agreement has saved the island nation from a disastrous situation. It saved the country, the government, and its members from more disasters. It was the accord that brought peace to the country. In an interview to THE SUNDAY TIMES in Colombo, he said the Indian soldiers have died for Sri Lanka. We should be grateful to all of them.

Mr Jayewardene said he has no regrets about the agreement he signed with Mr Rajiv Gandhi exactly 2 years ago because it tends from a deliberately thought-out decision. He denied that he was either flattered or threatened to do what he did.

The Sri Lankan leader said despite everything he remained a lover of India and felt that SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] is attempt to look together with India. He said India is the home of Gautam the Buddha. He asked what is there that is not in India?

Premadasa on Peace Proces
BK2307115589 Colombo Intern
in English 1045 GMT 23 Jul 8

ocess, IPKF Withdrawal
nternational Service
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[Excerpts] President R. Premad
two pledges given by him to the
elections. Addressing an execut
the Colombo central UNP [Uni
nization yesterday, he said that
pletely alleviate the poverty face
Lankans through janasaviya [w
was the withdrawal of the In
[IPKF] from the country. [Passa

nadasa has explained in detail
the people during the recent
cutive committee meeting of
United National Party] orga-
that one pledge was to com-
faced by around 7 million Sri
[welfare program], the other
Indian Peacekeeping Force
assage omitted]

On the IPKF withdrawal, the p
a decision arrived at by hin
through a mandate given by 95
the country. Mr Premadasa sai
now is implementing that ma
such a move is an act of trea
Lanka and her people. Whatev
ernment takes, the people of
India and the Indian media are
help safeguard Sri Lanka's so
expressed his gratitude and a
minded people of India.

e president said that it is not
himself but was a request
95 percent of the people of
said that what he was doing
mandate and opposition to
treachery perpetrated on Sri
ever stand the Indian Gov-
of India, the intellectuals of
are raising a strong voice to
sovereignty. The president
appreciation to those fair

By asking for the withdrawal of
helping to safeguard the poli
principle of Pancasila, which In

l of the Indian Army, we are
olicy of nonalignment and
India says she is following.

The president said that no cou
crime and violence, and it wa
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devolution of power—a proce
underway.

ountry is completely free of
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ocess which has already got

President Premadasa said th
approach to restore peace in
have a dialogue with the LT
Tamil Eelam] in order to bring
cratic process. The effort has
extent. He said he will also fur
ing [words indistinct] all other
process. He said we were draw
Freedom Party], the MEP [Mal
USA [United Socialist Allian
Samaja Party], CP [Commun
gress, CWC [Ceylon Workers
cratic Workers Congress], Musl
ELJP [Eksath Lanka Janatha
Vimukthi Peramuna] and all
parties to this process of dialog
participation of all communi
will be obtained for this peace

that the first step of his
n the North and East is to
TTE [Liberation Tigers of
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awing the SLFP [Sri Lanka
ahajana Eksath Peramuna],
ance] LSSP [Lanka Sama
nist Party], Muslim Con-
Congress], DWC [Demo-
slim League, Liberal Party,
a Party], the JVP [Janatha
other registered political
logue and consultation. The
nities and religious groups
e process.

'Text' of Premadasa Letter
BK2307073889 Colombo LANI
0600 GMT 23 Jul 89

to Gandhi Reported
NKAPUVATH in English

["Text" of President Prema
Indian Prime Minister Rajiv
item]

adasa's 19 July letter to
v Gandhi; "OANA/pool"

[Text] Dear Prime Minister,

Further to my letter of 12th July, 1989, I wish to clarify certain matters referred to in your letter of 11th July, 1989.

I agree that we should not enter into a debate. The terms of the agreement are clear. The events leading up to that agreement and the subsequent developments are fresh in our minds.

In regard to the cessation of hostilities by the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam], it is a fact that the Indian Armed Forces in Sri Lanka had not been able, even after two years, to ensure such cessation and complete disarming the militants. At the time of the signing of the agreement it was envisaged that this process would not take more than 5 days.

I also agree with your assertion that the agreement involves the acceptance of mutual obligations by two sovereign and friendly nations. The objective of this agreement was to resolve the ethnic problem and to end the violence that was a threat to the unity and territorial integrity of Sri Lanka. The agreement also sought to ensure the physical security and safety not only of the Tamil ethnic community but of all communities inhabiting the northern and eastern provinces.

I must thank you once again for the assistance provided by the Indian forces in response to Sri Lanka's request for military assistance to guarantee and enforce the cessation of hostilities. We are sad that over a thousand Indian lives have been lost.

Sri Lanka for her part has discharged all her obligations under the agreement and in particular taken all effective and meaningful steps toward the devolution of power. Sri Lanka, has amongst other things, mended the Constitution, enacted legislation necessary to establish provincial councils, temporarily merged the Northern and Eastern Provinces, implemented the official launguages policy, held the provincial council elections, set up the infrastructure and provided the personnel and finances necessary for effective functioning.

I wish to reiterate that I have at all times held the view that the problems of the Tamil linguistic groups in Sri Lanka should be resolved, not by the use of force but by the process of consultation, compromise and consensus.

Firm in this belief, I, as the presidential candidate, incorporated in my manifesto a pledge to secure the withdrawal of the Indian Armed Forces as a necessary prelude to political negotiations and a durable settlement. I did so in October-November 1988. The people of Sri Lanka, by an overwhelming majority endorsed this principle, both at the presidential and parliamentary elections.

The events of the past months have proved the wisdom of my approach. The LTTE, once the most intractable of groups, have now agreed to eschew violence and join the mainstream of political democracy.

You state that "the situation in the Northeastern Provinces is far more settled and peaceful than elsewhere in Sri Lanka". If this be so, there would be a lesser need for offensive action by the Armed Forces in these areas.

Furthermore, the substantial grievance over which the other provinces began fomenting unrest is the continued presence of the Indian Armed Forces in Sri Lanka. As you are aware, the agitation commenced with the signing of the agreement and continued to escalate due to the presence of the Indian Armed Forces. So that, which ever way it is looked at, the continued presence of the Indian Armed Forces is an obstacle to the restoration of peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka.

Whilst we are both agreed that the Indian Armed Forces in Sri Lanka should be withdrawn, I cannot, for the reasons more fully set out in the annex hereto, agree that the terms of the agreement do, or can, in law be interpreted to mean that the withdrawal of the Indian Armed Forces is in any way linked with or preconditioned upon the implementation of the process of devolution, or for that matter, the performance of any other obligation cast upon Sri Lanka by the agreement.

The continued presence of the Indian Armed Forces or the conduct of any operations by such forces within Sri Lankan territory is conditional only upon the concurrence of the Sri Lanka Government. It would therefore be unlawful for the Government of India to continue to maintain her Armed Forces within Sri Lankan territory in the absence of such concurrence.

It would be incompatible with the sovereignty of a state to concede a right for any alien armed force to operate within its territory contrary to the wishes of the head state who is also the commander-in-chief of its forces—from whom such alien armed force is not taking orders.

You would also appreciate that any continued offensive action against a section of my people who have publicly announced a cessation of hostilities against the government and all the people of Sri Lanka would amount to the unlawful taking of civilian lives.

As already intimated to you, with the recommencement of the withdrawal process it will be possible to set in motion consultations to accommodate any logistical constraints which may arise.

You have stated that my foreign minister has discussed a broad time frame for the withdrawal of the IPKF [Indian Peacekeeping Force]. According to him the former Indian high commissioner in Colombo had intimated that some of the IPKF would be withdrawn by 30th of June and the rest by 31st of December. It appears that this had been a tentative proposal made by your former high commissioner and I must emphasise that we have not at any time agreed to such a time frame.

I continue to receive reports of the forcible conscription of young people in the Northern and Eastern Provinces and their training at the hands of the Indian forces. Since I wrote to you on this matter on 30th June, the situation has been aggravated. There is now an exodus of young people from the Northern and the Eastern provinces fleeing from this conscription. A sizable number is being accommodated in camps in Colombo.

I am thankful for the assurance in your letter that India has traditionally been mindful of the sanctity of the principles of observing the obligations of agreements entered into by India. I wholly endorse the principle that agreements should be observed. In this regard I invite your attention to the express provision in the India-Sri Lanka agreement that the provision of the military assistance by the Government of India is as and when [as received] requested by the Government of Sri Lanka.

It should also be noted that the agreement contemplates that the Indian Armed Forces will assist the Government of Sri Lanka and not be operating their own initiative.

However, if it is your view that the agreement should be construed as creating an obligation for the Indian Armed Forces to remain in Sri Lanka territory without the concurrence and against the express wishes of the Sri Lankan Government, I as the president of an independent, sovereign republic, would have no option but to treat the agreement as being inimical to Sri Lanka's sovereignty and national interests.

Yours sincerely, President

'Annex' to Letter to Gandhi

BK2307083689 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0626 GMT 23 Jul 89

["Annex" to President Premadasa's 19 July letter to Indian Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi; "OANA/pool" item]

[Text] The entry into and the continued presence of Indian Armed Forces on Sri Lankan territory can be lawful only upon the express concurrence of the Government of Sri Lanka.

It is a peremptory norm of international law, that the presence of, or the conduct of operations by, any foreign armed force within the territory of a sovereign state, other than with the express concurrence of the government of that state amounts to an act of aggression. Such acts of aggression have not only been recognized as unlawful, but unequivocally condemned by the community of civilized nations. This principle has also been reiterated in several United Nations instruments.-

In the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement several acts of cooperation are obligated upon the Government of India. The provision of military assistance is one such act of cooperation.An examination of the structure of the agreement makes clear, that the agreement contemplated implementation without the use of force, that the Government of India agreed to underwrite and guarantee the acceptance of the agreement by the militant groups, who would then cease hostilities and surrender their arms.

The Government of Sri Lanka undertook to confine its Armed Forces to barracks and to grant an amnesty to the militants who were in custody.

The rendering of military assistance is governed by Article 2.16(C) which clearly stipulates that the affording of military assistance is as and when requested by the Government of Sri Lanka.

This article makes it clear beyond argument that the basic provision of international law regarding the necessity of the concurrence of the government of the domestic state in the entry of foreign armed forces into its territory, has been recognized and observed.

With the release of the militants from custody and the confining of the Armed Forces to barracks by Sri Lanka, and the failure to disarm the militants or to ensure cessation of hostilities, there was resumption of the violence, which necessitated the request for Indian military assistance. Accordingly, the invitation of the Indian Armed Forces was, as unequivocally states in clause 6 of annex, to guarantee and enforce the cessation of hostilities.

Any attempt to construe this invitation as providing a mandatory right for the Armed Forces so invited to protect minorities or to oversee the devolution of power would be an untenable construction of the agreement.

Such a construction would neither accord with the clear understanding stated in the agreement nor with the peremptory norms of international law.